CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Mark Chapter 9 — The Glory of Christ, the Power of Faith, and the Call to Humble Discipleship

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Mark Chapter 9 moves from the mountaintop to the valley.

In Chapter 8, Jesus told His disciples He must suffer and die.

He called them to take up their cross.

Now, to strengthen them, He gives three of them a glimpse of His glory.

On a high mountain, Jesus is transfigured.

His clothes shine brighter than any earthly white.

Moses and Elijah appear with Him.

The Father speaks from a cloud.

"This is My beloved Son. Listen to Him!"

But they cannot stay on the mountain.

At the bottom, a desperate father waits with his son.

The other disciples could not help him.

Jesus frees the boy and teaches about faith and prayer.

"I believe! Help my unbelief!"

Then Jesus predicts His death a second time.

And the disciples argue about who is the greatest.

Jesus takes a little child in His arms and teaches that true greatness is found in serving.

The chapter ends with serious warnings about sin and hell.

Jesus calls His followers to deal with sin decisively and to live at peace.

The chapter moves through seven movements:

- The Transfiguration (verses 1–10).
- Elijah and the Suffering Son of Man (verses 11–13).
- Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Boy (verses 14–29).
- Jesus Predicts His Death a Second Time (verses 30–32).
- Who Is the Greatest? (verses 33–37).
- Whoever Is Not Against Us Is For Us (verses 38–41).

- Warnings About Sin and Hell (verses 42–50).

A note on verse numbers: in this chapter, verses 44 and 46 are not included.

Those verses repeat the words of verse 48 and are missing from many of the oldest copies of Mark, so many modern Bibles leave them out or place them in a footnote.

The central truth of Mark 9 is:

Jesus is the glorious, beloved Son of God whom we must listen to, and those who follow Him are called to trusting faith, dependent prayer, humble service, and serious holiness as they walk the road to the cross.

I. THE KINGDOM COME WITH POWER

Mark 9:1 — Some Standing Here

"Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, some standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.""

"Truly I tell you."

A solemn statement.

"Some standing here will not taste death."

Some of those listening would still be alive.

"Before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

What did Jesus mean?

Bible students understand this in several ways.

Many connect it to the Transfiguration that follows immediately.

Others see it fulfilled in the resurrection, at Pentecost, or in the spread of the gospel.

Each of these showed God's kingdom coming with power.

Mark places this saying right before the Transfiguration, where three disciples saw Jesus' glory.

Cross References

Matthew 16:28

> I tell you the truth, some people standing here will see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom before they die.

Luke 9:27

> Some of you standing here will not die before you see God's kingdom.

Matthew 24:30

> Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. All the nations will see Him coming on the clouds with power and great glory.

Spiritual Principle

God's kingdom comes with power, and Jesus gives His followers glimpses of it.

Key Truth

The road of the cross leads to the glory of the kingdom.

II. UP A HIGH MOUNTAIN

Mark 9:2 — Transfigured Before Them

“Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him up a high mountain by themselves. There He was transfigured before them.”

“Six days later.”

Six days after Peter's confession and Jesus' teaching about the cross.

“Jesus took Peter, James, and John.”

His inner circle again.

“Up a high mountain by themselves.”

The mountain is not named.

Many think it was Mount Hermon near Caesarea Philippi, while an old tradition names Mount Tabor.

“There He was transfigured before them.”

Transfigured means changed in form.

The glory that was always His shone through.

For a moment, they saw Jesus as He truly is.

Cross References

Matthew 17:1

> Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John up on a high mountain by themselves.

Luke 9:28

> About eight days after Jesus said this, He took Peter, John, and James and went up on a mountain to pray.

2 Peter 1:16

> When we told you about the power of our Lord Jesus Christ and His coming, we were not passing on clever myths. We had seen His majesty for ourselves.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus revealed His glory to strengthen His disciples for the hard road ahead.

Key Truth

The glory of Jesus was not added from outside; it shone from within.

III. DAZZLING WHITE

Mark 9:3 — Whiter Than Any Bleach

“His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone on earth could bleach them.”

“His clothes became dazzling white.”

They shone brilliantly.

“Whiter than anyone on earth could bleach them.”

No human effort could make anything this white.

This was heavenly glory.

In the Bible, shining white is the color of God's holiness and glory.

Cross References

Matthew 17:2

> There He was changed in front of them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as light.

Daniel 7:9

> As I watched, thrones were set up, and the Ancient One sat down. His clothes were white as snow.

Revelation 1:14

> His head and His hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes were like flames of fire.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus shares the holy glory of God.

Key Truth

No earthly whiteness can compare with the purity of Christ.

IV. ELIJAH AND MOSES

Mark 9:4 — Speaking with Jesus

“Elijah and Moses appeared and spoke with Jesus.”

Two great figures of the Old Testament appeared.

Moses represents the Law.

Elijah represents the Prophets.

Both had met God on a mountain.

Both had unusual departures from this world.

Luke tells us they talked with Jesus about His coming departure in Jerusalem.

The whole Old Testament was pointing to Jesus and His cross.

Cross References

Matthew 17:3

Then Moses and Elijah appeared and were talking with Him.

Luke 9:30

Two men, Moses and Elijah, were talking with Him.

Malachi 4:5

Look, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes.

Spiritual Principle

The Law and the Prophets point to Jesus.

Key Truth

All of Scripture meets in Jesus.

V. THREE SHELTERS

Mark 9:5 — It Is Good to Be Here

“Peter said, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.””

“Rabbi, it is good for us to be here.”

Peter was right about that.

“Let us put up three shelters.”

Shelters were small tents or booths.

Perhaps Peter was thinking of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Perhaps he wanted to make the moment last.

“One for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

Peter's mistake was putting Jesus on the same level as Moses and Elijah.

Jesus is far greater.

Cross References

Matthew 17:4

> Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If You want, I will put up three shelters.”

Luke 9:33

> Peter said, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three shelters.” He did not know what he was saying.

Leviticus 23:34

> On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, the Feast of Shelters to the Lord begins, and it lasts seven days.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is not one great teacher among many; He stands above all.

Key Truth

We cannot stay on the mountaintop; Jesus leads us back down to serve.

VI. TERRIFIED

Mark 9:6 — Not Knowing What to Say

“He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.”

Mark is honest about Peter.

He spoke because he did not know what else to do.

All three disciples were terrified.

When humans see God's glory, they are overwhelmed.

Cross References

Matthew 17:6

> When the followers heard the voice, they fell to the ground, very frightened.

Luke 9:34

> While he was saying this, a cloud came and covered them, and they were afraid as they went into the cloud.

Exodus 20:18

> The people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain smoking. They shook with fear and stayed far away.

Spiritual Principle

God's glory reveals our smallness and fills us with holy fear.

Key Truth

Sometimes the right response to God's glory is silence.

VII. LISTEN TO HIM!

Mark 9:7 — The Father's Voice from the Cloud

“A cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is My beloved Son. Listen to Him!””

“A cloud overshadowed them.”

In the Old Testament, a cloud often showed God's presence.

It led Israel through the wilderness.

It filled the tabernacle.

“A voice came from the cloud.”

The Father spoke.

“This is My beloved Son.”

The same words spoken at Jesus' baptism.

“Listen to Him!”

This was the Father's command.

Not to Moses.

Not to Elijah.

To Jesus.

Especially now, when Jesus was teaching about the cross.

Cross References

Matthew 17:5

> While Peter was talking, a bright cloud covered them. A voice from the cloud said, “This is My Son, whom I love. I am very pleased with Him. Listen to Him!”

Deuteronomy 18:15

> From your own people, the Lord your God will raise up a prophet like me. Pay attention to Him.

2 Peter 1:17

> Jesus received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came from the majestic glory, saying, “This is My Son, whom I love. I am very pleased with Him.”

Spiritual Principle

The Father commands us to listen to His Son.

Application

Are you listening to Jesus, especially when He speaks about the cross?

VIII. ONLY JESUS

Mark 9:8 — They Looked Around

“Suddenly, when they looked around, they saw only Jesus with them.”

“Suddenly.”

The vision ended.

“When they looked around, they saw only Jesus with them.”

Moses was gone.

Elijah was gone.

The cloud was gone.

Only Jesus remained.

This is a beautiful picture.

In the end, Jesus is all we need.

Cross References

Matthew 17:8

> When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

Luke 9:36

> When the voice finished speaking, only Jesus was there.

2 Corinthians 4:6

> The same God who once ordered light to shine in the darkness has now shone into our hearts, so we can see His glory shining from the face of Christ.

Spiritual Principle

When everything else fades, Jesus remains.

Key Truth

Only Jesus. That is enough.

IX. UNTIL THE SON OF MAN HAS RISEN

Mark 9:9 — Tell No One Yet

“As they came down the mountain, Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.”

“As they came down the mountain.”

They returned to the ordinary world.

“Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen.”

They had to keep it secret for now.

“Until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.”

After the resurrection, they would understand.

The glory would make sense only after the cross.

Peter later wrote about this moment in his letter.

Cross References

Matthew 17:9

> As they came down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Do not tell anyone what you saw until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.”

Luke 9:36

> The followers kept quiet and told no one at that time what they had seen.

Mark 8:30

> Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about Him.

Spiritual Principle

The glory of Jesus is understood fully only through the cross and resurrection.

Key Truth

Some things make sense only after Easter.

X. WHAT DOES RISING FROM THE DEAD MEAN?

Mark 9:10 — Keeping the Matter

“They kept the matter to themselves, wondering what “rising from the dead” meant.”

“They kept the matter to themselves.”

They obeyed.

“Wondering what ‘rising from the dead’ meant.”

They believed in a resurrection at the end of time.

But they could not understand how the Messiah would die and rise again now.

They were still seeing like the blind man after the first touch.

Cross References

John 20:9

They still did not understand from the Scriptures that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

Luke 18:34

The followers understood none of this. Its meaning was hidden from them.

Mark 9:32

But they did not understand what He meant, and they were afraid to ask.

Spiritual Principle

God's truth is sometimes understood only over time.

Key Truth

The disciples obeyed even before they understood.

XI. ELIJAH MUST COME FIRST

Mark 9:11 — The Disciples' Question

“The disciples asked Him, “Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?””

They had just seen Elijah.

This raised a question.

Malachi had promised Elijah would come before the day of the Lord.

If Jesus was the Messiah, where was Elijah?

Cross References

Malachi 4:5

I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and fearful day of the Lord.

Matthew 17:10

The followers asked Jesus, “Why do the teachers of the law say Elijah must come first?”

Matthew 11:14

If you are willing to accept it, John is the Elijah who was to come.

Spiritual Principle

God's plan unfolds just as He promised.

Key Truth

Every promise God makes is kept.

XII. THE SON OF MAN MUST SUFFER

Mark 9:12 — Elijah Restores All Things

“Jesus replied, “Indeed, Elijah comes first and restores all things. But why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected?”

“Indeed, Elijah comes first and restores all things.”

Jesus agreed with the prophecy.

“But why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected?”

Jesus pointed to another truth.

The Scriptures also said the Messiah would suffer.

Isaiah 53 describes a suffering servant.

The disciples needed to hold both truths together.

Cross References

Malachi 4:6

He will turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the hearts of children to their parents.

Isaiah 53:3

He was hated and rejected by people. He had much pain and suffering. People would not even look at Him.

Matthew 17:12

In the same way, the Son of Man will suffer at their hands.

Spiritual Principle

The Scriptures teach both the glory and the suffering of the Messiah.

Key Truth

The suffering of Jesus was not a surprise; it was written.

XIII. ELIJAH HAS ALREADY COME

Mark 9:13 — They Did to Him Whatever They Pleased

“I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, just as it is written about him.””

“Elijah has already come.”

Jesus was speaking of John the Baptist.

John came in the spirit and power of Elijah.

“And they did to him whatever they pleased.”

Herod imprisoned and killed him.

“Just as it is written about him.”

Elijah was hunted by Queen Jezebel.

John was killed because of Queen Herodias.

What happened to the forerunner would also happen to the Messiah.

Cross References

Matthew 17:12

> Elijah has already come, but people did not recognize him. They did whatever they wanted to him.

Matthew 11:14

> John is the Elijah who was to come.

1 Kings 19:2

> Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “By this time tomorrow I will kill you.”

Spiritual Principle

God's servants often suffer, just as the Messiah would.

Key Truth

John's suffering was a preview of Jesus' suffering.

XIV. ARGUING WITH THE DISCIPLES

Mark 9:14 — A Large Crowd

“When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and the scribes were arguing with them.”

From the glory of the mountain to the chaos of the valley.

A crowd had gathered.

The scribes were arguing with the nine disciples left behind.

Something had gone wrong.

Cross References

Matthew 17:14

> When they came back to the crowd, a man came to Jesus and knelt in front of Him.

Luke 9:37

> The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met Jesus.

Mark 2:6

> Some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves.

Spiritual Principle

After the mountaintop comes the valley of real need.

Key Truth

Faith is tested not on the mountain but in the valley.

XV. RUNNING TO GREET HIM

Mark 9:15 — The Crowd Was Amazed

“As soon as the crowd saw Jesus, they were amazed and ran to greet Him.”

The crowd was amazed.

Perhaps Jesus still carried some sign of the glory He had shown.

Like Moses' face shining after meeting God.

The people ran to Him.

Cross References

Mark 6:54

> As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus.

Luke 8:40

> When Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed Him.

Matthew 17:14

> When they reached the crowd, a man came up to Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' arrival brings hope into confusion.

Key Truth

When Jesus comes, the crowd turns from the argument to Him.

XVI. WHAT ARE YOU ARGUING ABOUT?

Mark 9:16 — Jesus Asks

“He asked, “What are you arguing with them about?””

Jesus asked what was going on.

He stepped in to protect His disciples.

He took charge of the situation.

Cross References

Luke 9:38

> A man in the crowd shouted, “Teacher, please come and look at my son. He is my only child.”

Matthew 17:14

> A man came to Jesus and knelt before Him.

Mark 9:33

> He asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus steps into our conflicts and takes charge.

Key Truth

Jesus always asks the question that brings things into the light.

XVII. A SPIRIT THAT MAKES HIM MUTE

Mark 9:17 — A Father's Plea

“A man from the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a spirit that makes him mute.”

“Teacher, I brought You my son.”

A father had come for help.

“Who has a spirit that makes him mute.”

His son was troubled by an evil spirit.

It kept him from speaking.

Luke tells us he was an only son.

Cross References

Matthew 17:15

Lord, have mercy on my son. He has seizures and suffers terribly.

Luke 9:38

Teacher, please look at my son. He is my only child.

Mark 1:23

Just then a man with an evil spirit cried out in the synagogue.

Spiritual Principle

Parents bring their children's needs to Jesus.

Application

Who in your family do you need to bring to Jesus?

XVIII. THEY COULD NOT

Mark 9:18 — The Disciples Failed

“Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked Your disciples to drive it out, but they could not.””

“Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground.”

The boy suffered terrible attacks.

The symptoms are similar to severe seizures.

In this case, the Gospel tells us an evil spirit was the cause.

But not every seizure or illness today is caused by a demon.

Many have medical causes and should receive good medical care.

“I asked Your disciples to drive it out, but they could not.”

The disciples had driven out demons before.

But this time they failed.

Cross References

Matthew 17:15

> He often falls into the fire or into the water.

Luke 9:39

> A spirit seizes him, and he suddenly screams. It throws him into fits so that he foams at the mouth.

Mark 1:26

> The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out with a loud scream.

Spiritual Principle

Past success does not guarantee present power; we must depend on God each time.

Key Truth

The disciples had authority, but they had stopped depending on God.

XIX. HOW LONG?

Mark 9:19 — You Unbelieving Generation

“Jesus said, “You unbelieving generation, how long must I be with you? Bring the boy to Me.””

“You unbelieving generation.”

Jesus was grieved by the lack of faith all around Him.

The crowd, the scribes, and even His disciples.

“How long must I be with you?”

Jesus was weary of unbelief.

“Bring the boy to Me.”

But He did not turn away.

He still invited the boy to come.

When others fail, Jesus does not.

Cross References

Matthew 17:17

> Jesus answered, “You faithless and twisted people! How long must I stay with you? Bring the boy here to Me.”

Luke 9:41

> Jesus said, “You people who do not believe and have turned from God! How long must I be with you? Bring your son here.”

Deuteronomy 32:5

> They have acted sinfully against Him. They are not His children; they are a twisted and crooked generation.

Spiritual Principle

When human help fails, bring the need to Jesus.

Key Truth

“Bring the boy to Me” is still Jesus' invitation.

XX. CONVULSIONS

Mark 9:20 — The Spirit Saw Jesus

“They brought him, and when the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into convulsions. He fell to the ground, rolling and foaming at the mouth.”

As soon as the evil spirit saw Jesus, it reacted violently.

It knew who Jesus was.

It made its final attack.

Evil often fights hardest just before it is defeated.

Cross References

Matthew 17:15

> He has seizures and suffers greatly.

Luke 9:42

> While the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and into a fit.

Mark 1:26

> The spirit shook the man and came out with a loud cry.

Spiritual Principle

Evil may rage, but it cannot stand before Jesus.

Key Truth

The darkness often grows loudest just before the light wins.

XXI. SINCE CHILDHOOD

Mark 9:21 — How Long?

“Jesus asked the boy's father, “How long has he been like this?” He replied, “Since childhood.”

“How long has he been like this?”

Jesus took time to ask.

He cared about the father's story.

“Since childhood.”

This family had suffered for years.

The father had carried this burden for a long time.

Cross References

Luke 13:11

> A woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not stand up straight.

John 5:5

> One man there had been sick for thirty-eight years.

John 9:1

As Jesus walked along, He saw a man who had been blind from birth.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus cares about our whole story, not just our present crisis.

Key Truth

Jesus listens to the long years of our suffering.

XXII. IF YOU CAN

Mark 9:22 — Take Pity on Us

“It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us.””

“It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him.”

The evil spirit wanted to destroy the boy.

“But if You can do anything.”

The father's faith was weak.

The disciples had failed.

He was not sure anymore.

“Take pity on us and help us.”

Notice the word **“us.”**

The father felt his son's suffering as his own.

Cross References

Matthew 17:15

He often falls into the fire or into the water.

Psalm 34:19

Good people may have many troubles, but the Lord will rescue them from all of them.

James 5:14

> Is anyone sick? Let him call the elders of the church to pray for him.

Spiritual Principle

Even weak and hesitant faith can bring a need to Jesus.

Key Truth

The father said “if You can”; the real question was “if you believe.”

XXIII. EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Mark 9:23 — For the One Who Believes

“Jesus said, “‘If You can’? Everything is possible for the one who believes.””

“If You can?”

Jesus repeated the father's words.

There was no question about Jesus' power.

The question was about the father's faith.

“Everything is possible for the one who believes.”

Faith connects us to God's unlimited power.

This does not mean we can get anything we want.

It means nothing is too hard for God when we trust Him and His will.

Cross References

Matthew 17:20

> If your faith is as small as a mustard seed, you can tell this mountain to move, and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.

Mark 11:23

> If anyone tells this mountain to be lifted up and thrown into the sea, and does not doubt but believes, it will happen.

Matthew 21:21

If you have faith and do not doubt, you can do even more.

Spiritual Principle

Nothing is impossible for God when we trust Him.

Key Truth

The question is never “Can Jesus?” but “Will I believe?”

XXIV. I BELIEVE! HELP MY UNBELIEF!

Mark 9:24 — An Honest Prayer

“Immediately the boy's father cried out, “I believe! Help my unbelief!””

This is one of the most honest prayers in the Bible.

“I believe!”

The father had some faith.

“Help my unbelief!”

But he also had doubts.

He did not pretend.

He brought both his faith and his doubt to Jesus.

And Jesus accepted that prayer.

We do not need perfect faith to come to Jesus.

We need honest faith that asks Him for help.

Cross References

Luke 17:5

The apostles said to the Lord, “Make our faith stronger!”

Matthew 17:20

Even faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains.

Hebrews 11:6

> No one can please God without trusting Him. Whoever comes to Him has to believe that He exists and that He gives good things to those who sincerely seek Him.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus welcomes honest faith that struggles with doubt.

Application

Can you pray, “I believe; help my unbelief”?

XXV. COME OUT AND NEVER ENTER AGAIN

Mark 9:25 — Jesus Rebukes the Spirit

“Seeing the crowd running to the scene, Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit: “You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out and never enter him again.””

“Seeing the crowd running to the scene.”

The crowd was growing.

“Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit.”

Jesus spoke directly to the spirit.

“I command you.”

Jesus spoke with full authority.

“Come out and never enter him again.”

Not just freedom for now.

Freedom forever.

Cross References

Mark 1:25

> Jesus spoke firmly to the spirit: “Be quiet! Come out of him!”

Luke 9:42

> Jesus gave a firm command to the evil spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.

Mark 5:8

Jesus had said to it, “Come out of the man, you evil spirit!”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' freedom is complete and lasting.

Key Truth

When Jesus sets someone free, they are free indeed.

XXVI. LIKE A CORPSE

Mark 9:26 — He Is Dead

“The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently, and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He is dead.””

“The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently, and came out.”

The spirit made one last violent attack.

Then it left.

“The boy looked so much like a corpse.”

He lay completely still.

“Many said, ‘He is dead.’”

To the crowd, it looked like the worst had happened.

But Jesus was not finished.

Cross References

Mark 1:26

The spirit threw him into a fit and came out with a shout.

Luke 9:42

The demon threw him down into a fit.

Luke 8:52

Jesus said, “Stop crying. She is not dead, only asleep.”

Spiritual Principle

What looks like death may be the beginning of new life in Jesus' hands.

Key Truth

When others say “It's over,” Jesus may be just beginning.

XXVII. LIFTED UP

Mark 9:27 — He Stood

“But Jesus took him by the hand, lifted him up, and he stood.”

“But Jesus took him by the hand.”

The same tender touch He gave Peter's mother-in-law and Jairus' daughter.

“Lifted him up.”

The word used here is also used of resurrection.

“And he stood.”

The boy was alive and free.

What a picture of what Jesus does for us.

He takes us by the hand and raises us up.

Cross References

Mark 1:31

> He went to her, took her hand, and helped her up.

Mark 5:41

> He took her by the hand and said, “Little girl, get up!”

Acts 3:7

> Peter took him by the right hand and helped him up. At once the man's feet and ankles became strong.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus lifts up those who are cast down.

Key Truth

The hand of Jesus raises the fallen.

XXVIII. WHY COULDN'T WE?

Mark 9:28 — The Disciples Ask Privately

“After Jesus had gone indoors, His disciples asked privately, “Why couldn't we drive it out?””

The disciples were confused.

They had driven out demons before.

Why not this time?

They came to Jesus privately with their question.

Failure can be a great teacher if we bring it to Jesus.

Cross References

Matthew 17:19

> Then the followers came to Jesus privately and asked, “Why couldn't we drive out that demon?”

Mark 9:18

> I asked Your followers to drive out the spirit, but they could not.

Luke 9:40

> I begged Your followers to make it leave, but they could not.

Spiritual Principle

Bring your failures to Jesus and learn from Him.

Application

What failure do you need to bring to Jesus?

XXIX. ONLY BY PRAYER

Mark 9:29 — Prayer and Fasting

“He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer and fasting.””

“This kind can come out only by prayer.”

The disciples had relied on their past success.

Perhaps they thought they had the power themselves.

Jesus pointed them back to prayer.

Dependence on God is the key.

“And fasting.”

Many ancient copies of Mark include **“and fasting.”**

Some of the oldest copies end with **“prayer.”**

Either way, the lesson is clear.

Some battles require deeper dependence on God.

Cross References

Matthew 17:21

> But this kind does not go out except through prayer and fasting.

Daniel 9:3

> So I turned to the Lord God and prayed and pleaded with Him, fasting and wearing rough cloth and sitting in ashes.

James 5:16

> When a godly person prays, great things happen.

Spiritual Principle

Spiritual power comes from constant dependence on God in prayer.

Key Truth

The disciples had authority, but they had forgotten to pray.

XXX. THROUGH GALILEE

Mark 9:30 — Not Wanting Anyone to Know

“They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were,”

Jesus traveled quietly.

He was focused on His disciples now.

The crowds would have to wait.

He needed time to prepare them for what was coming.

Cross References

Matthew 17:22

When they came together in Galilee, Jesus said to them.

Luke 9:43

While everyone was amazed at all He did, Jesus said to His followers.

Mark 9:9

He told them not to tell anyone what they had seen.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus makes time to teach His disciples deeply.

Key Truth

Some lessons are taught away from the crowds.

XXXI. THE SECOND PREDICTION

Mark 9:31 — Delivered into the Hands of Men

“because He was teaching His disciples: “The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill Him, and after three days He will rise.””

“He was teaching His disciples.”

The wording means He kept teaching it again and again.

“The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men.”

Delivered can also mean betrayed.

It hints at Judas' betrayal.

But it also points to God handing over His Son for us.

“They will kill Him.”

“And after three days He will rise.”

This is the second clear prediction of His death and resurrection.

Cross References

Matthew 17:22

> The Son of Man will be handed over to people.

Luke 9:44

> Listen carefully: The Son of Man will be handed over to people.

Mark 8:31

> The Son of Man must suffer many things, be killed, and after three days rise again.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus knew exactly what was coming and walked toward it willingly.

Key Truth

The cross was not an accident; it was the plan.

XXXII. AFRAID TO ASK

Mark 9:32 — They Did Not Understand

“But they did not understand and were afraid to ask Him about it.”

“But they did not understand.”

They still could not grasp it.

“And were afraid to ask Him about it.”

Why were they afraid?

Perhaps they remembered how Jesus rebuked Peter.

Perhaps they did not want to hear more.

Sometimes we avoid asking because we fear the answer.

Cross References

Luke 9:45

> But they did not understand. The meaning was hidden from them, and they were afraid to ask.

Luke 18:34

> The followers understood none of this.

Mark 8:32

> Peter took Him aside and began to correct Him.

Spiritual Principle

Do not be afraid to ask Jesus about hard truths.

Application

Is there a hard truth you have been afraid to ask God about?

XXXIII. WHAT WERE YOU ARGUING ABOUT?

Mark 9:33 — In the House at Capernaum

“They came to Capernaum. When He was in the house, He asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?””

“They came to Capernaum.”

Back to Jesus' home base.

“What were you arguing about on the road?”

Jesus knew.

But He wanted them to admit it.

Cross References

Matthew 18:1

> At that time the followers came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

Luke 9:46

> An argument started among the followers about which of them was the greatest.

Mark 9:35

> Whoever wants to be first must be last and the servant of all.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus knows what we talk about when we think He is not listening.

Key Truth

The road to the cross was where the disciples argued about greatness.

XXXIV. THEY KEPT SILENT

Mark 9:34 — Who Is the Greatest?

“They kept silent, because they had argued about who was the greatest.”

They were embarrassed.

Jesus had just told them He would die.

And they were arguing about who was the most important.

They knew it was wrong.

So they said nothing.

Cross References

Luke 9:46

> The followers argued about which one of them was the greatest.

Luke 22:24

Then the followers argued about which of them should be thought of as the greatest.

Matthew 18:1

The followers asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

Spiritual Principle

Pride and the desire for importance are opposite to the way of the cross.

Spiritual Warning

Silence before Jesus often shows we already know we were wrong.

XXXV. LAST OF ALL, SERVANT OF ALL

Mark 9:35 — True Greatness

“Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.””

“Sitting down.”

Teachers sat to teach important lessons.

“Jesus called the Twelve.”

This was for all of them.

“Anyone who wants to be first must be last of all.”

In God's kingdom, everything is turned upside down.

“And servant of all.”

True greatness is not about being served.

It is about serving.

Jesus Himself would show this on the cross.

Cross References

Matthew 20:26

You must not be like that. If one of you wants to be important, he has to serve the rest.

Luke 9:48

Whoever is least among you all is the greatest.

Matthew 23:11

The greatest among you will be your servant.

Spiritual Principle

True greatness in God's kingdom is found in humble service.

Application

Whom can you serve this week?

XXXVI. A LITTLE CHILD

Mark 9:36 — Taken in His Arms

“He took a little child and placed him among them. Taking the child in His arms, He said,”

“He took a little child.”

Probably in Peter's house.

“And placed him among them.”

Right in the middle of the disciples.

“Taking the child in His arms.”

A tender picture.

In that culture, children had little status.

They could not do anything for anyone.

Jesus held one up as an example.

Cross References

Matthew 18:2

Jesus called a little child to Him and stood the child in front of them.

Luke 9:47

Jesus knew what they were thinking, so He took a little child and stood the child beside Him.

Mark 10:16

He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus values those whom the world overlooks.

Key Truth

The arms of Jesus are open to the least important.

XXXVII. WELCOMING A CHILD

Mark 9:37 — Welcoming Jesus and the Father

““Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes Me; and whoever welcomes Me does not welcome Me but the One who sent Me.””

“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes Me.”

Serving the least important is serving Jesus.

No one gains status by serving a child.

That is exactly why it pleases God.

“And whoever welcomes Me does not welcome Me but the One who sent Me.”

Welcoming Jesus means welcoming the Father.

The humblest act of service reaches all the way to God.

Cross References

Matthew 18:5

Whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me.

Luke 9:48

Whoever welcomes this little child in My name welcomes Me. And whoever welcomes Me welcomes the One who sent Me.

Matthew 10:40

> When people take you in, they are taking Me in, and when they take Me in, they are taking in the Father who sent Me.

Spiritual Principle

Serving the least is serving Christ Himself.

Key Truth

No act of kindness to the overlooked is ever small in God's eyes.

XXXVIII. WE TRIED TO STOP HIM

Mark 9:38 — Not Following Us

"John said to Him, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in Your name and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.""

"John said to Him."

One of the Sons of Thunder spoke up.

"We saw someone driving out demons in Your name."

Someone outside their group was doing God's work.

And it was working.

Remember, the disciples had just failed to drive out a demon.

"We tried to stop him, because he was not following us."

Notice: **"not following us."**

Not "not following You."

They were protecting their group.

Cross References

Luke 9:49

> John said, "Master, we saw someone using Your name to drive out demons. We told him to stop, because he does not belong to our group."

Numbers 11:27

> A young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.”

1 Corinthians 12:3

> No one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual Principle

God's work is bigger than any one group.

Spiritual Warning

Be careful not to confuse loyalty to your group with loyalty to Jesus.

XXXIX. DO NOT STOP HIM

Mark 9:39 — Doing Miracles in My Name

““Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me.”

“Do not stop him.”

Jesus corrected John.

“For no one who does a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me.”

Someone working in Jesus' name was on Jesus' side.

He was honoring Jesus, not opposing Him.

The disciples did not have a monopoly on God's work.

Cross References

Luke 9:50

> Jesus said to him, “Do not stop him, because whoever is not against you is for you.”

Numbers 11:29

> Moses answered, “Are you jealous for my sake? I wish all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit on them!”

1 Corinthians 12:3

> Only by the Holy Spirit can anyone say, “Jesus is Lord.”

Spiritual Principle

Rejoice when Jesus' name is honored, even by those outside your circle.

Key Truth

Moses wished all God's people would prophesy; Jesus' heart is just as wide.

XL. NOT AGAINST US IS FOR US

Mark 9:40 — On the Same Side

“Whoever is not against us is for us.”

This is a generous principle.

Those who honor Jesus and are not opposed to Him are on the same side.

Elsewhere Jesus said, **“Whoever is not with Me is against Me.”**

The two sayings fit together.

About ourselves, we must be fully with Jesus.

About others who honor Jesus, we should be generous.

This does not mean ignoring false teaching.

But it means not rejecting true believers just because they are not in our group.

Cross References

Luke 9:50

> Whoever is not against you is on your side.

Matthew 12:30

> If you are not on My side, you are working against Me. If you are not helping Me gather, you are scattering.

Numbers 11:29

> I wish all the Lord's people were prophets.

Spiritual Principle

Followers of Jesus should be generous toward others who honor His name.

Application

Do you rejoice when God works through believers outside your own church?

XLI. A CUP OF WATER

Mark 9:41 — A Sure Reward

“Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in My name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose their reward.””

“Anyone who gives you a cup of water.”

A simple act.

Water was common and cheap.

“In My name because you belong to Christ.”

The motive matters.

Kindness shown because someone belongs to Jesus.

“Will certainly not lose their reward.”

God notices even the smallest act of kindness.

Nothing done for Jesus is forgotten.

Cross References

Matthew 10:42

> If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is My follower, he will surely be rewarded.

Matthew 25:40

> The King will reply, “When you helped even the smallest of My brothers and sisters, you were helping Me.”

Hebrews 6:10

> God is always just. He will remember how hard you worked and how you showed your love for Him by caring for His people.

Spiritual Principle

God rewards even the smallest kindness done for Christ's sake.

Key Truth

A cup of water given in Jesus' name is never wasted.

XLII. A MILLSTONE

Mark 9:42 — Causing Little Ones to Stumble

““If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and be thrown into the sea.”

“If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble.”

Little ones includes children and humble believers.

To **cause to stumble** means leading them into sin or away from faith.

“It would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck.”

A large millstone was turned by a donkey.

It was very heavy.

“And be thrown into the sea.”

This is a strong image.

Jesus is not commanding this punishment.

He is saying that God's judgment for harming the faith of the little ones is even worse than this.

God takes the protection of children and weak believers very seriously.

Cross References

Matthew 18:6

> If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him to be drowned in the deep sea with a large stone tied around his neck.

Luke 17:2

> It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a stone around his neck than to cause one of these little ones to sin.

Matthew 18:10

> Be careful that you do not look down on any of these little ones. I tell you, their angels in heaven are always with My Father.

Spiritual Principle

God fiercely protects children and humble believers.

Spiritual Warning

Leading the weak into sin is one of the most serious offenses before God.

XLIII. IF YOUR HAND CAUSES YOU TO SIN

Mark 9:43 — Better to Enter Life Maimed

“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out.”

Jesus now turns from sins against others to our own sins.

“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off.”

This is a strong picture, not a command to harm our bodies.

Jesus often used dramatic language to make a point.

Sin does not come from the hand itself, but from the heart, as Jesus taught in Chapter 7.

The meaning is clear.

Deal with sin decisively.

Remove whatever leads you into sin, whatever the cost.

“It is better to enter life maimed.”

Giving up something precious is better than losing eternal life.

“Than with two hands to go into hell.”

The word for **hell** is **Gehenna**.

It was a valley outside Jerusalem once used for terrible idol worship and later for burning trash.

It became a picture of God's final judgment.

“Where the fire never goes out.”

Jesus speaks plainly about the reality of judgment.

Cross References

Matthew 5:30

> If your right hand leads you into sin, get rid of it. Losing one part of you is far better than having all of you end up in hell.

Matthew 18:8

> If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better to enter life crippled than to have two hands and be thrown into the fire that never ends.

Colossians 3:5

> Kill off the earthly things that still live in you: sexual sin, dirty living, wrong desires, and greed, which is really a kind of idol worship.

Spiritual Principle

Sin must be dealt with decisively because eternity is at stake.

Application

What do you need to remove from your life because it leads you into sin?

XLIV. IF YOUR FOOT CAUSES YOU TO SIN

Mark 9:45 — Better to Enter Life Crippled

“And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell.”

Jesus repeats the lesson.

The **hand** pictures what we do.

The **foot** pictures where we go.

If a place or path leads you into sin, stop going there.

Do not walk where temptation waits for you.

Cross References

Matthew 18:8

> It is better to enter life lame than to have two feet and be thrown into eternal fire.

Isaiah 59:7

> Their feet run to do evil, and they hurry to kill innocent people.

Romans 3:15

> They are always ready to hurt and kill people.

Spiritual Principle

Avoid the places and paths that lead you into sin.

Application

Are there places you need to stop going?

XLV. IF YOUR EYE CAUSES YOU TO SIN

Mark 9:47 — Better to Enter with One Eye

“And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell,”

The third picture.

The **eye** pictures what we look at and desire.

Many sins begin with what we see.

Jesus calls us to guard our eyes.

Again, this is not a call to harm ourselves.

It is a call to take radical steps against temptation.

Notice **“the kingdom of God”** here means the same as **“life”** in verses 43 and 45.

Cross References

Matthew 5:29

> If your right eye pulls you into sin, get rid of it. You are better off losing one part of yourself than having your whole self thrown into hell.

Matthew 18:9

> If your eye makes you sin, take it out and throw it away. It is better to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

Proverbs 4:25

> Keep your eyes looking straight ahead. Fix your attention on what is in front of you.

Spiritual Principle

Guard what you look at, because sin often begins with the eyes.

Application

What are you allowing your eyes to see that leads you away from God?

XLVI. THE WORM AND THE FIRE

Mark 9:48 — Isaiah's Warning

“where ‘the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.’”

Jesus quotes the last verse of Isaiah.

It describes the fate of those who rebel against God.

The worm that never dies.

The fire that is never put out.

These images describe the terrible reality of final judgment.

Jesus spoke of hell more than anyone else in the Bible.

He did so out of love, to warn people.

He came to save us from this very judgment.

Cross References

Isaiah 66:24

> They will go out and see the dead bodies of those who rebelled against Me. The worms that eat them will not die, and the fire that burns them will not go out.

Matthew 3:12

> He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn the chaff with a fire that cannot be put out.

Revelation 14:11

> The smoke from their torment rises forever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus warns about judgment because He loves us and came to save us from it.

Key Truth

The One who warned most about hell is the One who died to save us from it.

XLVII. SALTED WITH FIRE

Mark 9:49 — Everyone Will Be Salted

“Everyone will be salted with fire.”

This is one of the hardest verses in Mark to understand.

Bible students have suggested several meanings.

In the Old Testament, every offering was seasoned with salt.

Fire is also a picture of testing and purifying.

Many understand it to mean that every believer will be refined through trials, like an offering set apart to God.

Others connect it to the fire of judgment just mentioned.

Either way, it reminds us that life with God involves testing and purifying.

Cross References

Leviticus 2:13

> Put salt on every grain offering you bring. Do not leave the salt of God's covenant out of your offerings. Put salt on all your offerings.

1 Corinthians 3:13

> The work of each person will be clearly seen, because the Day will bring it to light. Fire will test what each person has done.

Matthew 5:13

> You are like salt for the whole world. But once salt loses its taste, nothing can bring the flavor back.

Spiritual Principle

God uses fiery trials to purify and preserve His people.

Key Truth

The fire that refines is part of a life offered to God.

XLVIII. HAVE SALT AMONG YOURSELVES

Mark 9:50 — Be at Peace

“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with one another.””

“Salt is good.”

Salt preserved food and added flavor.

It was very valuable.

“But if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again?”

Salt in those days was often mixed with other minerals.

If the salt dissolved away, what was left was useless.

A disciple who loses their distinctiveness is like salt that has lost its taste.

“Have salt among yourselves.”

Keep the qualities of true disciples.

Faithfulness, purity, and devotion to Jesus.

“And be at peace with one another.”

Jesus ends where the argument began.

The disciples had been arguing about greatness.

Jesus calls them to peace.

Cross References

Matthew 5:13

> You are the world's seasoning. But salt that goes flat is useless, and people just throw it away.

Colossians 4:6

> When you talk, always be kind and pleasant, and season your words with salt. Then you will know how to answer everyone.

Romans 12:18

> As much as it depends on you, get along peacefully with all people.

Spiritual Principle

Disciples must keep their distinctive faithfulness and live at peace with one another.

Key Truth

The salt of the disciple is shown in holiness toward God and peace toward others.

XLIX. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM MARK 9

1. The Transfiguration Reveals Christ's Glory

“This is My beloved Son. Listen to Him!”

Principle:

Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah).

2. Faith Overcomes Unbelief

“I believe! Help my unbelief!”

Principle:

Even weak faith can be strengthened when we bring it honestly to Jesus.

3. Prayer and Fasting Are Vital

“This kind can come out only by prayer and fasting.”

Principle:

Some spiritual battles require deeper dependence on God.

4. True Greatness Is Found in Humility

“Anyone who wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”

Principle:

To be first, one must become last and a servant.

5. Unity in Christ's Mission

“Do not stop him.”

Principle:

Those working in His name should not be hindered.

6. The Seriousness of Sin

“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off.”

Principle:

Sin must be dealt with decisively because eternal consequences are at stake.

7. Be Salt

“Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

Principle:

Followers of Jesus must keep their faithfulness and pursue peace.

L. FROM THE MOUNTAIN TO THE VALLEY

Mark 9 shows two very different scenes.

On the Mountain

- Jesus shines with glory.
- Moses and Elijah appear.
- The Father speaks.
- Three disciples are overwhelmed.

In the Valley

- A boy suffers.
- A father is desperate.
- Disciples have failed.
- Scribes are arguing.

What This Teaches

- We cannot stay on the mountain.
- The glory of Jesus prepares us for the needs below.
- The same Jesus who shines in glory meets us in our struggles.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Mountaintop moments are given to strengthen us for valley ministry.

LI. HONEST FAITH

The father in verses 21–24 teaches us how to pray when faith is weak.

He Came to Jesus

Even after the disciples failed.

He Told His Story

“Since childhood.”

He Asked for Mercy

“Take pity on us and help us.”

He Admitted His Faith

“I believe!”

He Admitted His Doubt

“Help my unbelief!”

Jesus Answered

The boy was set free.

Key Truth

Jesus does not require perfect faith; He welcomes honest faith that asks for help.

LII. TRUE GREATNESS

Verses 33–41 turn the world's idea of greatness upside down.

The World Says

- Be first.
- Be served.
- Be important.
- Protect your group.

Jesus Says

- Be last.
- Serve all.
- Welcome the least important.
- Rejoice when others serve in My name.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

In God's kingdom, the way up is down.

LIII. DEALING WITH SIN SERIOUSLY

Verses 42–50 teach how seriously Jesus takes sin.

Sin Against Others

Leading little ones into sin is very serious.

Sin in What We Do

“If your hand causes you to sin.”

Sin in Where We Go

“If your foot causes you to sin.”

Sin in What We See

“If your eye causes you to sin.”

Important Note

Jesus used strong, dramatic pictures.

He was not telling anyone to harm their body.

He was calling us to cut off sin decisively and remove whatever leads us into it.

Anyone struggling with thoughts of harming themselves should reach out right away for help from a trusted person, their church, or a trained professional.

Practical Steps

- Identify what leads you into sin.
- Remove it, even if it is costly.
- Avoid places and situations of temptation.
- Guard what you watch and read.
- Ask others to hold you accountable.

Key Truth

Sin is never worth keeping, because eternity is at stake.

LIV. WHAT MARK 9 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

He Is Glorious

“His clothes became dazzling white.”

He Is Greater Than Moses and Elijah

“They saw only Jesus with them.”

He Is the Beloved Son

“This is My beloved Son.”

He Must Be Heard

“Listen to Him!”

He Must Suffer

“The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected.”

He Has Power Over Evil

“Come out and never enter him again.”

He Lifts Up the Fallen

“Jesus took him by the hand, lifted him up.”

He Welcomes Children

“Taking the child in His arms.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The glorious Son of God came to suffer, to serve, and to lift up the weak.

LV. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What happened at the Transfiguration?

Jesus' appearance was changed, His clothes shone white, Moses and Elijah appeared, and the Father spoke from a cloud.

Question 2

Why did Moses and Elijah appear?

They represent the Law and the Prophets, which point to Jesus.

Question 3

What was wrong with Peter's idea of three shelters?

It placed Jesus on the same level as Moses and Elijah.

Question 4

What did the Father command?

“This is My beloved Son. Listen to Him!”

Question 5

Who was the Elijah who had already come?

John the Baptist.

Question 6

Why couldn't the disciples drive out the spirit?

They had stopped depending on God in prayer.

Question 7

What does “I believe! Help my unbelief!” teach us?

That Jesus welcomes honest faith, even when it is mixed with doubt.

Question 8

What were the disciples arguing about?

Who was the greatest.

Question 9

How did Jesus define true greatness?

Being last of all and servant of all.

Question 10

Why did Jesus say not to stop the man using His name?

Because whoever is not against us is for us, and God's work is bigger than one group.

Question 11

Did Jesus mean we should literally cut off our hands?

No. He used strong pictures to teach that we must deal with sin decisively.

Question 12

What should Mark 9 change about the way Christians live today?

Mark 9 should cause believers to live:

- Listening to Jesus above all others.
- Bringing honest faith to Jesus.
- Depending on God in prayer.
- Seeking to serve rather than to be served.
- Welcoming the least important.
- Rejoicing when others serve in Jesus' name.
- Dealing seriously with sin.
- Living at peace with one another.

LVI. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Mark 9 asks several important questions.

Am I Listening to Jesus?

Or to other voices?

Do I See Jesus as Greater Than All?

Or as one good teacher among many?

Am I Depending on Prayer?

Or on past success?

Can I Pray Honestly?

“I believe; help my unbelief”?

Am I Seeking Greatness?

Or seeking to serve?

Do I Welcome the Overlooked?

Children, the poor, the forgotten?

Am I Generous Toward Other Believers?

Or do I only value those in my group?

What Sin Do I Need to Cut Off?

What step will I take today?

LVII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“I Believe; Help My Unbelief”

A father stood before Jesus.

His son had suffered since childhood.

He had tried everything.

He had come to Jesus' disciples.

They had failed.

His hope was almost gone.

He said, **“If You can do anything.”**

Jesus turned it back to him.

“If You can? Everything is possible for the one who believes.”

The father did not pretend.

He did not claim to have perfect faith.

He cried out the most honest prayer in the Bible.

“I believe! Help my unbelief!”

And Jesus answered.

This creates a powerful principle.

You do not need perfect faith to come to Jesus.

You only need to bring the faith you have, and ask Him to help with the rest.

Principle:

Bring Jesus your faith and your doubts together; He will strengthen what is weak.

LVIII. FINAL APPLICATION

Mark Chapter 9 takes us from glory to service.

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain.

The Father commands us to listen to Him.

In the valley, Jesus frees a suffering boy.

He teaches that faith and prayer are essential.

He predicts His death again.

He teaches that true greatness is found in serving.

He welcomes a child in His arms.

And He warns us to deal seriously with sin.

Mark 9 therefore reminds us:

Never put anyone on the same level as Jesus.

Never stop listening to Him.

Never rely on past success instead of prayer.

Never seek greatness instead of service.

Never treat sin lightly.

The church does not need people competing to be the greatest.

It needs:

Disciples who listen to Jesus.

Believers who pray with honest faith.

Servants who welcome the least.

And people who take sin seriously and live at peace.

The same Jesus still calls:

Tell people that Jesus is the beloved Son of God.

Tell people that everything is possible for those who believe.

Tell people that Jesus lifts up the fallen.

Tell people that true greatness is found in serving.

And as you live:

Listen to Him.

Pray with honest faith.

Serve all.

Be at peace.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for revealing the glory of Your beloved Son.

Thank You for the command to listen to Him.

Thank You that Jesus is greater than Moses, greater than Elijah, greater than all.

Thank You that He comes down from the mountain to meet us in our valleys.

Thank You that He welcomes honest faith mixed with doubt.

Thank You that He lifts up the fallen and frees those who suffer.

Thank You that He took a child in His arms and showed us true greatness.

Forgive us when we have not listened to Jesus.

Forgive us when we have relied on past success instead of prayer.

Forgive us when we have argued about who is greatest.

Forgive us when we have looked down on others who serve in Jesus' name.

Forgive us when we have treated sin lightly.

Help us listen to Your Son.

Help our unbelief.

Teach us to depend on You in prayer.

Make us servants of all.

Give us courage to cut off whatever leads us into sin.

And help us live at peace with one another.

“I believe! Help my unbelief!”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“Immediately the boy's father cried out, “I believe! Help my unbelief!”” — Mark 9:24

Central Truth

Jesus is the glorious, beloved Son of God whom we must listen to, and those who follow Him are called to trusting faith, dependent prayer, humble service, and serious holiness as they walk the road to the cross.

Mark 9 in One Sentence

Jesus is transfigured in glory as the Father commands, “Listen to Him,” then frees a suffering boy when his father cries, “I believe; help my unbelief,” predicts His death again, teaches that true greatness is found in serving, and warns His followers to deal decisively with sin and live at peace with one another.