

Dependent on the Lord
Mark 9:14-29
8-15-21

Life on the mountain top:

1. Mountaintop life is worshipful and good.
2. The kingdom of God & power is on display.
3. The Son is radiantly glorified.
4. The Father is honored in His Son.
5. The disciples are confused but in awe.
6. A lesson is learned about prayer and dependence.

Life in the valley:

1. In the valley there are troubles.
2. The kingdom of the enemy is on display.
3. A son is terribly oppressed and demonized.
4. A father is horrified by his son's problems.
5. The disciples are defeated & lack power.
6. A lesson about self-sufficiency and prayerlessness.

I. Overwhelming Circumstances.

Mark 9:14-17 – “And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. And immediately all the crowd, when they saw Him, were greatly amazed and ran up to Him and greeted Him. And He asked them, ‘What are you arguing about with them?’ And someone from the crowd answered Him, ‘Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute.’”

II. Inadequacy.

Mark 9:18 – “And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.”

III. Failure.

Mark 9:19 – “And He answered them, ‘O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me.’”

Mark 9:20-27 – “And they brought the boy to Him. And when the spirit saw Him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus

asked his father, 'How long has this been happening to him?' And he said, 'From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.' And Jesus said to him, 'If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.' Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, 'I believe; help my unbelief!' And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, 'You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.' And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, 'He is dead.' But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose."

IV. Foolishness.

Mark 9:28-29 – "And when He had entered the house, His disciples asked Him privately, 'Why could we not cast it out?' And He said to them, 'This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.'"

Growing Deeper This Week

1. What has been your most profitable mistake – the one from which you learned the most valuable lesson(s)?
2. Do you tend to get down on others for making mistakes or encourage them to learn from mistakes?
3. How did witnessing the transfiguration prepare the disciples for this next lesson? How did this lesson bring them down to earth from their mountaintop experience?
4. What is so difficult about depending on the Lord, waiting, praying, submitting, and trusting?
5. How do our failures reflect badly on Jesus in the eyes of the world? What might we say or do when we have failed that would mitigate the damage done to His name?
6. Is our generation more or less of a "faithless generation" than the one Jesus confronted?
7. Should our daily lives be divided into categories; what we can do on our own and things we need Jesus' help to do? Explain. (See John 15:5)
8. What did the disciples do after their failure? How can failure be made profitable?
9. How does self-sufficiency and prayerlessness express pride? How does prayer, and humility express "faith and dependency"? Pray for one another.