

REVEALED

An Exposition of the Book of Mark



What Does it Mean to Believe?

Mark 9:14-29

Main Idea

Jesus calls us to have faith in His identity, not simply His ability

Overview

- Father brings son to have evil spirit released, and Disciples cannot do it
- Jesus responds in frustration over a faithless generation (including all peoples disciples included)
- Evil spirit is attempting to destroy boy
 - This is what Evil does, incites unbelief and destroys
 - God gives faith and life
- Father apparently doubts when asking Jesus if “he can” do something
- Jesus calls attention to the “if you can” claim and therein calls him to belief
 - Making the thrust of the passage about believing in the person of Jesus and
 - His deity, not just on what He can do
 - If you understand who Jesus is, you understand he can make all things
 - possible
- Father responds by saying “I believe, help my unbelief”
 - This is not a contradiction, but a mustard seed faith
 - We know it is true faith b/c Jesus heals boy (He does nothing w/o faith)
- Jesus calls disciples to prayer in order to get the evil out
 - Calling attention to prayer as a faith based initiative
 - Lack of prayer is lack of believing in God and more believing in self
 - The disciples had begun to trust themselves
- We must see that God calls us to Himself...He must be enough...We must trust, we must believe
 - Where we don't, we don't trust Him, we doubt His person, not just abilities
 - We must look to God as the end of the good news
 - If we use Him to get something else He is nothing more than a tool to get what we want, and that is no Gospel
 - We must learn to look to His Majesty and not just His might
 - We should not be so concerned about what He can do for us

- We should be more concerned in delighting in Him

Questions

1. Where do we see the evidence of faithlessness in this passage?
2. Why does faithlessness grieve God?
3. What is the prescription Jesus gives to the disciples and what does this have to do with faith?
4. Discuss what is true belief vs. just claiming the right things.
5. How do we incite true belief? How do we counsel those who aren't believing to believe?
6. How does the Gospel speak into this understanding of belief?