

THE UNCLEAN SPIRIT

Pastor Stephen Baker / Harmony Church/ Study of Mark

Mark 9:14-29

Introduction

Epilepsy vs. Demon Possession.

I. The Scribes Challenge Jesus' Disciples. (14-16)

Jesus returned from the "Mount of Transfiguration" with Peter, James and John. He saw 9 of his disciples debating with the scribes, who were experts in the Law. Prior to this debate, a man came seeking Jesus for healing for his son. The disciples could not heal him.

II. A Distressed Father and Powerless Disciples. (17-19)

([Mark 9:17](#)) dumb spirit = one that renders him unable to speak.

([Mark 9:18](#)) teareth = throws him on the ground in convulsions, an apt description of an epileptic seizure. However, this was demon possession, not epilepsy.

([Mark 9:19](#)) faithless generation = unbelieving generation. We live in a generation of unbelief today. Why do you think is?

III. "All Things Are Possible to Him That Believes." (20-24)

([Mark 9:21](#)) This statement provides further evidence that this is epilepsy since it has affected him from childhood. But again, the Bible attributes this to demonic activity - not disease.

([Mark 9:22](#)) The demon's intent was to destroy the boy. Jesus said, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." ([John 10:10](#))

([Mark 9:24](#)) When you are having trouble believing, tell God that you believe; and ask Him to help you where you do not believe as you should.

IV. Jesus Rebukes the Unclean Spirit. (25-27)

([Mark 9:25](#)) Why was it important for Jesus to tell the devil to get out and stay out?

V. Prayer and Fasting (28-29)

([Mark 9:29](#)) The disciples had failed in the one task they should have regarded as most important: warfare praying! They should have prayed and sought God until they had power and faith to accomplish their work.