

A VISION OF HELL

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—September 10th, 2023

Mark 9:14-29

(ESV)

[14] And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. [15] And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. [16] And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" [17] And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. [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." [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." [20] 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. [21] And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. [22] 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." [23] And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." [24] Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" [25] 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." [26] 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." [27] But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. [28] And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" [29] And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

INTRODUCTION

A person's faith is not primarily measured by its intensity, but by its object.

Matthew 17:20—[20] *"For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."*

Demons

- Unembodied evil spirits
- Created by Jesus
- Followed Satan in their rebellion
- Recognize Jesus as their maker and their Lord
- **Jude 5–6**—[5] *Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. [6] And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day...*

We don't approach Jesus when we are spiritually fit, but when we are spiritually unfit, and we trust him to grant us the fitness we need.

THE FAITHLESS DISCIPLES

The disciples had both the mandate and the power to work with the authority of Christ.

Mark 6:7—[7] *And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.*

It is possible to walk closely to Jesus and yet have no faith.

True faith is revealed when we rely on the supernatural power of the Spirit to accomplish what Jesus has called us to accomplish.

John 15:5—[5] *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit...*

THE FAITH-FILLED FATHER

God often uses suffering to strengthen our weak faith.

God doesn't just want to resolve our problems when we are suffering; he wants us to experience him at a heart level.

1 Corinthians 8:3—[3] *But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.*

When the father says, "I believe, help my unbelief," he is giving over his entire faith life to Christ.

Galatians 2:20—[20] *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Does God answer every prayer according to our will if we have faith?

God answers prayers according to his will.

1 John 5:14—*And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.*

Romans 12:2—*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Luke 22:42—[42] *"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."*

THE MIGHTY SAVIOR

Jesus, in delivering the boy from the evil spirit, shows that grace is given not to the strong but by the strong.

Mark wants his readers to know that the hope of the resurrection lives in Christ.