

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

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Commands

Scripture Passage: Mark 9:14-27

The Point: Belief in Jesus is essential in all areas of life.

I. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- A. In every area of life, we need to seek to determine God's will through His Word and then follow His guidance as He leads us.
- B. When we trust and obey the Lord's commands, we will always see His mighty hand at work.
- C. In this session, we will explore the failure of some of Jesus' disciples when they presumed to act on His behalf but without His guidance.
- D. Jesus rebuked the lack of faith demonstrated not only by His disciples but also by others.
- E. We will also be challenged as believers to show obedient faith in our lives.

II. POWERLESS (Mark 9:14-18)

- A. Jesus and the three disciples who witnessed His transfiguration returned to find the other disciples embroiled in an argument with Jewish religious teachers over the disciples' inability to expel an unclean spirit.
- B. "they" = Jesus and the disciples; Peter, James, and John (v.14).
 - 1. There was a large crowd gathered around the other nine disciples.
 - 2. The teachers of the law were arguing with them.
- C. The people noticed that Jesus was approaching (v.15).
 - 1. "amazed" = His countenance and boldness in confronting the scribes.
 - 2. The people were excited to see Jesus.
- D. Jesus was not distracted by the greeting and excitement of the people (v.16).
- E. A desperate father had brought his sick son to Jesus for healing (v.17).
- F. The boy had the symptoms that resembled an epileptic seizure but it was also a spiritual issue (v.18).
 - 1. Jesus was not present when the man presented his son to the disciples.
 - 2. He asked the remaining disciples to cast out the demon.

III. HOPELESS (Mark 9:19-21)

- A. "He replied to them" = the disciples, the crowd, the scribes and the father.
- B. Jesus' two rhetorical questions reflected His annoyance with the crowd's willful and persistent unbelief (v.19).
 - 1. If the father had faith in Jesus he would have waited for Him.
- B. The child had no control over his body and continually thrashed about on the ground. The foaming at the mouth was a sign of demonic activity (v.20).

C. Jesus wanted the father to recognize that his son had been suffering for a long time (v.21).

1. The father felt like the son's condition had always been there.

IV. **FAITHLESS (Mark 9:22-24)**

A. The father recognized that the problem was a demonic force trying to destroy his son (v.22).

1. "if you can do anything" = the father was uncertain whether Jesus could help the boy.

2. The disciples' inability to help likely planted seeds of doubt in the father's thinking.

B. The father should not expect any help from Jesus if he was unwilling to believe that Jesus, in fact, could help (v.23).

C. The father's deep anguish was evident (v.24).

V. **FAITHFUL (Mark 9:25-27)**

A. For the boy's sake, Jesus decided to wait no longer (v.25).

1. Jesus showed His divine authority by commanding the evil spirit to come out of the boy and never enter him again.

B. The evil spirit did not surrender easily, but it had no choice under the mighty command of Christ (v.26).

1. This father's son was so drained physically that his body became like a corpse, causing bystanders to wonder if the child had died.

C. The boy was not dead but only weak and helpless (v.27).

1. The boy was not the only one healed that day.

2. The father also had been touched and his faith was increased.

VI. **CONCLUSION & APPLICATION**

A. Placing belief in the wrong person or people leads to disappointment.

B. Believers must refresh their belief in Jesus to maintain spiritual vitality.

C. Confession of our unbelief is the first step toward gaining faith in Jesus.

D. Only Jesus can restore life to people controlled by evil.

E. Teaching Ideas

1. Create Interest

a. Ask the group to share the best teacher or instructor that they have had and what makes them so memorable.

2. Closing Challenge

a. Lead the group to discuss the commands that Jesus has given them and how they seek to follow them.

F. Don't Forget!!!

1. Commands & Mark 9:14-27

2. Belief in Jesus is essential in all areas of life.

Dr. Smith serves as the lead state missionary with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and leads the Sunday School, Small Groups, Discipleship and Faith Development ministries. Visit their website at gabaptist.org/groups for more information and other resources to aid your class, group or ministry. You can also connect with Dr. Smith at facebook.com/GABaptistGroups. Dr. Smith is available for conferences or other speaking opportunities and can be contacted at tsmith@gabaptist.org.