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BIBLE STUDY

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

601 NW 2nd Street, Gainesville, FL 32601; 352.336.7602

Web Site: www.RefugeGainesville.com

**Elder Michael Williams, Pastor**

**Bishop M. Ruel McCoy, Sr., Diocesan**

**“LORD, I BELIEVE; HELP THOU MINE UNBELIEF.”**

**Mark 9:14-29**

***Mark 9:14 "And when he came to [his] disciples, he saw a great multitude about them, and the scribes questioning with them."***

***Mark 9:15 "And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to [him] saluted him."***

The nine disciples that were left at the bottom of the mount of Transfiguration were surrounded by the multitude and being questioned by the scribes. It seems that they ran to Jesus to greet Him, when they saw Him coming and left the scribes that had been questioning them. Previously, Jesus had commanded Peter, James, and John (the disciples he took with Him up the mountain) not to tell any man about what they had seen. He also answered their questions about the resurrection.

***Mark 9:9-13***

***9And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead.***

***10And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean.***

***11And they asked him, saying, Why say the scribes that Elias must first come?***

***12And he answered and told them, Elias verily cometh first, and restoreth all things; and how it is written of the Son of man, that he must suffer many things, and be set at nought.***

***13But I say unto you, That Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed, as it is written of him.***

Not until after the Resurrection did the disciples fully grasp the significance of some of Jesus’ teachings. The multitude partially followed Him because they had heard of the miracles He had done. Possibly, many of them had needs in their own lives. His teachings were not like the teaching of the law. They gave hope to the common people. When they “beheld” Him implies keen observation. What they observed caused “great amazement” and they begin running to greet Him. This is how everyone who “sees” Jesus should respond! Run to Jesus!!

***1 Peter 2:25***

***25For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.***

***Mark 9:16 "And he asked the scribes, What question ye with them?"***

We see, here, that Jesus did not avoid the scribes, but asked them, why are you asking them questions? He says, why don't you just ask me? Jesus asked many questions of his disciples, friends and foes. Many times, he used questions to teach principles.

***Mark 9:17 "And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit;"***

***Mark 9:18 "And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not."***

This man, who brought his son to Jesus, didn't even wait till the scribes answered Jesus. He grabbed Jesus quickly and told Him of his problem. This problem that this young man had seemed to have more than one side to it. He was dumb and could not speak, but he also had something similar to epilepsy. It seems the disciples had tried to deliver the man, and they were unable to do it.

***Mark 9:19 "He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me."***

Jesus had just about been filled completely up with the lack of faith of the Pharisees and scribes, but worse than that was the lack of faith of His own disciples.

***Mark 9:20 "And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming."***

***Mark 9:21 "And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child."***

***Mark 9:22 "And ofttimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us."***

A person with this severe a problem could not be handled by just one person. The they that brought him were possibly friends helping the father. This evil spirit did not like being in the presence of Jesus the Christ. He acted up immediately and tried to harm the boy who had been brought to Jesus. Jesus knows all, so He didn't ask the man how long this had been for His benefit. It was, probably, given to show the utterly hopeless condition of the boy and the desperation of the father in pleading for Jesus to have compassion and help them.

***Mark 9:23 "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things [are] possible to him that believeth."***

Faith is the most powerful force a man can have. This statement of Jesus' was for the man and for all generations to come. Pray and believe.

***Mark 9:24 "And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief."***

The father here was so desperate, this was a last resort with him. His heart was broken that his son had this problem. He had waited so long and tried so hard to believe He was believing with everything he had left. He knew his own faith had not been enough in the past and asked the Lord to help him have enough faith. He called Jesus, Lord. In doing so, he said: whatever happens, it is up to you Lord.

***Mark 9:25 "When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, [Thou] dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him."***

This crowd (including the scribes) really ran over there to criticize the Lord and His disciples. They had already been disputing (the scribes and the crowd) about this boy's condition. Take note of how Jesus delivered him. First, Jesus spoke to the evil spirit and told it to come out of the boy. Jesus called it by name: "deaf and dumb spirit".

***Mark 9:26 "And [the spirit] cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead."***

Satan had power over this boy, but this spirit had to obey the voice of Jesus. When Jesus said, "...come out...", the spirit threw the boy down one more time and came out. This poor boy was so exhausted that he lay there as dead. The people thought he was dead.

***Mark 9:27 "But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose."***

***Mark 9:28 "And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?"***

Jesus lifted this boy up and that is what He really does for us. These disciples had been praying for the sick and casting out demons as they ministered. This particular evil spirit was much harder to cast. This spirit had been in this boy for a long time and was deep seated. This, also, was more than just one spirit, as well.

***Mark 9:29 "And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting."***

Jesus was teaching a principle here. Some illnesses and demons are so severe that just prayer will not make them well. Prayer with fasting for brings great divine results. Jesus was teaching the principle of fasting here.

**Questions**

1. In V-1, there are some here that shall not die till after when?
2. Who did Jesus take with Him to the mountain?
3. What does transfigured mean?
4. What happened to Jesus' garment?
5. Who appeared with Jesus?
6. Who represented the prophets?
7. Moses represented what?
8. How do Moses and Elijah represent the alive and dead?
9. Why do you suppose these two appeared with Jesus?
10. What did Peter want to do to show great respect for the three?
11. What made them so afraid?
12. Where did God's voice come from?
13. What did God the Father say?
14. When the three got up off their face, who was left?
15. They were not to tell about the transfiguration until when?
16. What did they ask Jesus about Elias?
17. Who did Jesus say represented Elias?
18. Why is Elijah such a mystery?
19. How were Jesus' teachings different?
20. What kind of spirit did the man's son have?
21. What did the foaming, gnashing and falling down indicate was this disease?
22. Who had tried to deliver the boy and couldn't?
23. What did the father ask Jesus to have for him?
24. Why did Jesus ask him how long he had the evil spirit?
25. What did Jesus tell the man he must do?
26. What did the father answer Jesus?
27. What is possible to those who believe?
28. What did Jesus say to the evil spirit?
29. What did the people think had happened to the boy when the evil spirit left?
30. Why could the disciples not cast out the demons?