



The Gospel *of Mark*



Mark 9:14-29

Jesus Heals a Boy Possessed by an Impure Spirit

14 When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. 15 As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. 16 “What are you arguing with them about?” he asked. 17 A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. 18 Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.” 19 “You unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.” 20 So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. 21 Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?” “From childhood,” he answered. 22 “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.” 23 “If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.” 24 Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” 25 When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” 26 The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He’s dead.” 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. 28 After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” 29 He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”

➤ **Coming down from the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus engaged a crowd, including scribes who were arguing with the other disciples. A man had asked the disciples to try and heal his demon-possessed son, but they failed. The boy had suffered incredible pain and near-death experiences, and his father had grown desperate.**

- 1. In what ways had the boy been physically tormented by the unclean spirit in verses 9:17, 18, 20, 22, 25 and 26?**
 - 2. Instead of giving up hope for healing, the father pressed on, asking Jesus if He could deliver what the disciples could not offer. Still, he was unsure about God's power, goodness, or both. Even though God has been faithful and generous, we are quick to doubt God's power and goodness. Describe one area of your life where you may be doubting the goodness and power of God in this season.**
- **In his request, the father used the qualifier, saying, "If you can do anything." Jesus seized the opportunity to remind the boy's dad of His power, calling him to a higher level of faith.**
- 3. Review 9:24. What does the father ask for? How do you identify with the father's request?**
 - 4. What big prayer have you avoided because you doubt God can answer with a yes?**
 - 5. Describe a time when you prayed, and God answered with a yes.**

Mark 9:30-37 - Jesus Predicts His Death a Second Time

³⁰ They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹ because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.” ³² But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it. ³³ They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” ³⁴ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. ³⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.” ³⁶ He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

➤ **Jesus reminded the disciples about His death for the second time. He was preparing their hearts for what was about to take place. The disciples were bewildered. Die and rise again? What could He mean by this? And why would He *keep saying it*, especially after their confusion and Peter's rebuke? Jesus was certain of what He was saying. He knew this was His Father's plan.**

- 1. Look up Revelation 13:8. Where was it written that the Lamb would be slain?**
- 2. When was it written?**
- 3. How did the disciples respond when Jesus asked what they were arguing about?**
- 4. Review 9:35. Describe Jesus's statement in your own words.**
- 5. Jesus took a child in His lap, defying the social standards of the day. Children were viewed as a nuisance until they could contribute to society. Think of someone with less status than you. How can you serve them?**

Mark 9:38-41- Whoever Is Not Against Us Is for Us

³⁸ “Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.” ³⁹ “Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, ⁴⁰ for whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.

Mark 9:38-41.

- 1. In whose name was the man casting out demons?**
- 2. Why do you think the disciples tried to put a stop to the man performing miracles in Jesus's name?**
- 3. Look up 1 Corinthians 12:3. How does this verse strengthen Jesus's words in 9:39?**
- 4. Today, Christians disagree on many issues that cause divisions in the church and across denominations. Jesus provided a warning to those who are quick to build walls where none are needed. Using a Bible study resource, look up the word *doctrine*.**
 - **If you need a resource, you can use: <https://biblehub.com/topical/d/doctrine.htm>**
- 5. Are there any areas in the church or in your life where you have found yourself treating it as doctrine (e.g., hymns/worship music style)?**

Mark 9:42-50 - Causing to Stumble

42 “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. 43 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— 44 where Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’ 45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— 46 where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’ 47 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire— 48 where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’

Tasteless Salt Is Worthless

49 “For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. 50 Salt *is* good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves and have peace with one another.”

➤ **This reading opened with a call to be mindful of how our actions can influence and impact others. In this section, Jesus uses hyperbole to get His message across, making His point with great clarity. When Jesus uses the phrase *little ones*, He wasn't necessarily talking exclusively about children. The term could also apply to a new believer or someone with childlike faith. And Jesus said it would be better to die than to cause one of them to sin.**

- 1. What was a millstone used for and what was its average weight in the first century?**
- 2. Take a moment to examine your life. Is there anything that would confuse or mislead a new believer?**
- 3. Jesus uses strong images to convey His point. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. Jesus wasn't suggesting you literally cut it off. What do you think he meant?**
- 4. Are there any sins you have diminished or ignored and haven't properly uprooted?**
- 5. In a Bible dictionary look up the word *hell* in (9:47).
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/gehenna/>**
- 6. Does this change or give more clarity to your view of hell? If so, how?**