

Sermon Questions

Exodus 17

This week we kicked off the 2023 calendar year with a message from Mark 9 about Jesus' healing of a young possessed boy. As Jesus returns from the mountain with Peter, James and John he sees a crowd of people arguing with His other 9 disciples. When he questions what is taking place, a father brings his son to Jesus and explains that he came for help but that Jesus' disciples were inept. Jesus is bothered by the lack of the faith in both His disciples and in the nation of Israel and asks to have the boy brought to Him. As the boy approaches Jesus the evil spirit throws him to the ground for one final violent action. Jesus commands the deaf and mute spirit to leave and never return and the boy is completely freed and healed. The disciples wonder why they were not able to heal but Jesus explains that this kind only comes out through prayer. Prayer is a continued posture not a one-time act. Prayer is a way of connecting with and hearing God and being obedient to His voice. Prayer is a gift. Prayer grows our faith. May this week's message encourage and unleash your faith as you continue in your walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Here are some notes to review from this week's sermon...

Unleashed

Mark 9:14-29

We lack faith because we believe in Jesus...

Traditionally but not personally (14-19)

Piously but not practically (20-24)

Historically but not presently (25-27)

We grow our faith through...

Prayer

Fasting

Vision

Hearing the Word of God and responding to Him is extremely important. If you haven't had the chance to listen to the message from this week you can now watch it [HERE](#). After watching, please use the following questions (if you find them helpful) in your BRAVE groups (now online every weekday) or discuss them with your family and/or friends. If you are not in a BRAVE Group now is a great time to get involved. Please email info@bravechurch.online and we will get you connected with a community that will work for you.

Questions

1. What are people arguing about why this story begins? Why would people rather argue about what Jesus cannot do than to believe by faith that He can? What makes faith so difficult?
2. What is the response of Jesus when He learns of what is happening? Why does He ask how long shall I be here with you and put up with you? Does this sound like a loving response? Why is Jesus bothered by His disciples? Why is He bothered by the nation of Israel? Why does a lack of faith bother Jesus so much?
3. Does the father of the boy have a legitimate need? Does the boy have a legitimate need? What is the solution to their problem? How is bringing the boy to Jesus different than having a spiritual debate with people? What problems do you have that need to simply be brought to Jesus rather than just discussed or argued with others?
4. How do you believe in Jesus traditionally but not personally? Why is it easier to adopt a religious formula than to personally believe that Jesus wants you to simply trust Him? Where do you struggle to believe God personally in your own life? How do you believe piously but not practically? Where do you set limits on God's work in your life? How do you believe God historically but not presently? Where do you doubt God's work in your life right now?
5. When the boy comes to Jesus and is being tormented why does Jesus pause to ask how long this has been happening to him? Why does Jesus want the father to be able to recognize that this has been ongoing with no hope? Why was it necessary for the father to know his own hopelessness prior to Jesus healing his only son?
6. Why does the father say, "If you can..." to Jesus? How does Jesus respond to these words? Why does Jesus respond to these words in the way He does? What does Jesus say He is able to do? For whom is Jesus able to do these things? What has been lacking?
7. Read Hebrews 11:1-6. What is faith? Why is faith so important in your walk with Jesus? Where do you need to grow in your faith with God? What is your next step of faith?
8. What does the father mean when he says, "Lord I believe, help my unbelief?" Is that a good prayer? Why or why not? Why is being authentic with Jesus so important when we pray? How was the father being authentic?
9. How easy was it for Jesus to heal the boy? How quickly did He heal him? How permanent was His healing? What needs a touch from Jesus in your life? Will you bring that to Him?

10. What do the disciples ask Jesus privately after the healing? Have the disciples had experience casting out evil spirits? Why does Jesus say they were not able to cast this one out? Was it a magic prayer they needed to pray or was He teaching them how they needed to continue to abide in Christ?
11. What was “this kind” in the story? How was this stronghold powerless against prayer? What is “this kind” in your life right now? How can you bring that to the Lord and trust Him to move on your behalf?
12. What are three ways you can continue to grow your faith? How significant is prayer to Christ’s ministry through you? How significant is fasting? How significant is vision?
13. What is God calling you to pray for? Believe for? Fast for?
14. What was your greatest take-a-way from this message? What do you need to apply right now in your life?