

# Mark

## Lesson 14 Chapter 9-11

### Leader Guide

Leader Guide Bible Studies

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# Good Teacher, What Must I Do?

## Lesson 14, Mark 9-11

### Prayers

### Introduction

The accounts in this lesson take place following Jesus' transfiguration in the closing months of his ministry. While on the road to Jerusalem, Jesus continued his ministry of healing, teaching, and preaching. Before entering Jerusalem, these final encounters illustrate the power of faith – even weak faith of those who will enter the kingdom of heaven.

### The Healing of a Boy with an Evil Spirit, Parallel accounts in *Mt 17:14-19; 22, 23; Lk 9:37-45*

Mk 9:14 When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. <sup>15</sup> As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

Mk 9:16 **“What are you arguing with them about?”** he asked.

Mk 9:17 A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. <sup>18</sup> 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.”

Mk 9:19 **“O unbelieving generation,”** Jesus replied, **“how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.”**

Mk 9:20 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.

Mk 9:21 Jesus asked the boy's father, **“How long has he been like this?”** “From childhood,” he answered. <sup>22</sup> “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.”

Mk 9:23 **“If you can?”** said Jesus. **“Everything is possible for him who believes.”**

Mk 9:24 Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

Mk 9:25 When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. **“You deaf and mute spirit,”** he said, **“I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”**

Mk 9:26 The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He's dead.”

Mk 9:27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

Mk 9:28 After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn't we drive it out?”

Mk 9:29 He replied, **“This kind can come out only by prayer.”** [Mt 17:20 **“Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”**]

Mk 9:30 They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, <sup>31</sup> because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, **“The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.”**

Mk 9:32 But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

1. Describe the scene Jesus, Peter, James and John encountered after coming down from the mount of transfiguration?

**Jesus and the three disciples came from glory back to the broken world of pain, suffering, and demon possession.**

2. What do you think the disciples and Pharisees argued about based on previous accounts about healing and casting out of demons?

**Earlier in the Mark 3:20-30, Jesus told the Pharisees that casting out of demons demonstrated his power came from God because a house divided against itself could not stand. It is likely the Pharisees took the disciples' failure to cast out the demon as evidence they were disciples of Satan.**

3. What is the intent of evil?

**Like the demons in Legion, evil seeks to destroy a person. In this case, the demon caused the boy to have seizures, gnash his teeth, and foam at the mouth. A joyful childhood was impossible for the boy, and the family was heartbroken and desperate.**

4. Why were the disciples unable to heal the boy?

**They did not take time to pray to God. Their past success in healing and casting out demons made them look to their abilities and made them blind to the real source of their power.**

5. What do you learn about the attributes of true faith from the father?

**By his admission, the father recognized his faith was weak and had no confidence in himself. The true faith of a believer does not look itself but places its trust in the power and mercy of Jesus.**

6. What issues do you struggle with where your faith is like the father of the boy – "I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief!" Nothing is impossible with God. No sin is undefeatable, no guilt is unforgivable, and no relationship is unrestorable.

**Allow time for discussion.**

### **The Rich Young Man, Parallel accounts in Mt 19:16-30; Lk 18:18-30**

Mk 10:17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what [Mt 19:17 good thing] must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Mk 10:18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone.

[Mt 19:17 If you want to enter life, obey the commandments] Mk 10:19 You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother [Mt 19:19 and love your neighbor as yourself].' "

Mk 10:20 "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

Mk 10:21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "[Mt 19:21 If you want to be perfect] Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Mk 10:22 At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Mk 10:23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

Mk 10:24 The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!

Mk 10:25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

Mk 10:26 The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"

Mk 10:27 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

Mk 10:28 Peter said to him, "We have left everything to follow you!"

Mk 10:29 "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel Mk 10:30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.

Mk 10:31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

7. What did the young man think eternal life required?

**The young man thought the eternal life was gained through good works and by keeping the law – which had done. He wanted to one more act to make his eternal inheritance sure.**

8. What did Jesus tell him, in love (Mk 10:21), he lacked for eternal life?

**Jesus told the young man to sell everything he owned as a way to show him he loved his wealth more than he loved God. No doubt, we would all fail Jesus' command.**

9. How did Jesus try to help the young man understand he was trying to justify himself by telling him, "Only God is good"?

**The young man thought righteousness by keeping the law brought eternal life. Jesus confronted his attitude and told him that only God was good because no one would enter God's kingdom by their merit.**

10. Does Jesus' admonition to sell his possessions apply to everyone, or was he making a point to only this young man?

This conversation seems to be between Jesus and the rich man – we don't want it to apply to us! However, this was not the only place Jesus made this statement. In Luke 12, Jesus addresses a large crowd about wealth and possessions. He told the crowd <sup>22</sup> **“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. <sup>23</sup> Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.... <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

We cannot dismiss Jesus' command to the rich man, nor should we hold tightly to our possessions and money.

11. What obstacle stands in the way to the wealthy? Consider also, Matthew 6:24, **“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”**

None of us are so quick to part with money. We certainly have not sold all our possessions to provide for the poor. We need to ask the Holy Spirit daily to reshape our lives and make us more generous and responsive to others' needs.

12. Why was Jesus' teaching about wealth so astonishing to the disciples?

The view in Jesus' day was the rich were blessed and favored by God, and the poor were punished for their sin. The kingdom of God certainly belonged to the rich.

We are more sophisticated in our thinking and recognize gain by dishonest and criminal means, but we still hold onto, in part, the disciples' simple view of wealth and poverty.

13. The key passage to understanding Jesus' teaching is in verse 27, **“With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God”**. How does anyone, rich or poor, enter the kingdom of heaven?

**Rich and poor all enter the kingdom of God the same way, by God's own choosing and by faith in Jesus Christ.**

14. Discuss the following statement: "The young man's question shows the ultimate division between Christianity and every other religion in the world."

The young man's question was about works-righteousness versus Christ's righteousness. All other religions in the world are in tune with humankind's natural way of trying to get salvation – through their own actions. This leads to questions like, “Am I good enough, charitable enough, wise enough, or disciplined enough to earn salvation?” Only Christianity points us outside ourselves, to Christ alone.

**Blind Bartimaeus Receives His Sight, Parallel accounts in Mt 20:29-34; Lk 18:35-43**

Mk 10:46 Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging.

Mk 10:47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Mk 10:48 Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Mk 10:49 Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you."

Mk 10:50 Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

Mk 10:51 "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

Mk 10:52 "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road. [Lk 18:43 When all the people saw it, they also praised God.]

15. Matthew indicates two blind men called out to Jesus. How does their plea (verse 47) reveal their faith?

**The blind men continued to cry out and confess their faith, even though people told them to be quiet. They called him the Son of David, acknowledging that he was the promised Messiah.**

### **Closing Prayer by John Baillie**

Eternal God, though I cannot see You with my eyes or touch You with my hands, yet grant me this day a clear confidence of Your reality and power. Do not let me go to my work believing only in the world of sense and time, but give me grace to understand that the world I cannot see or touch is the most real world of all. My life today will be lived in time, but eternal issues will be concerned in it. The needs of my body will make themselves known, but it is for the needs of my soul that I must care the most. My business will be with physical things, but behind them let me be aware of spiritual things. Let me keep steadily in mind that the things that matter are not money or possessions, not houses or lands, not bodily comfort or bodily pleasure; but truth and honor and meekness and helpfulness and a pure love of Yourself.

- For the power You have given me to lay hold of things unseen:
- For the strong sense I have that this is not my home:
- For my restless heart which nothing finite can satisfy:

I give You thanks, God.

- For the invasion of my soul by Your Holy Spirit:
- For all human love and goodness that speak to me of You:
- For the fullness of Your glory poured out in Jesus Christ:

I give You thanks, God.

I, a pilgrim of eternity, stand before You, O eternal One. Do not let me seek to deaden or destroy the desire for You that disturbs my heart. Let me rather yield myself to its constraint and go where it leads me. Make me wise to see all things today in their eternal form, and make me brave to face all the changes in my life which such a vision may entail, through the grace of Christ my Savior. Amen.