

# Mark

## Lesson 14 Chapter 9-11

### Participant 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?
2. What do you think the disciples and Pharisees argued about based on previous accounts about healing and casting out of demons?
3. What is the intent of evil?
4. Why were the disciples unable to heal the boy?
5. What do you learn about the attributes of true faith from the father?
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.

### **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!"



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?

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

### **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?

### **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.