

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 21: Mark 9:14-29

Jesus heals a boy with an evil spirit (vv. 14-27)

Matt. 17:14-18
Luke 9:37-42

- Jesus and His “inner circle” descend the mountain to a commotion
 - The people are astonished to see Jesus arriving on the scene
 - The scribes are arguing with Jesus’ disciples
 - Jesus attempts to discover the cause of the dispute
- A father explains that his son is possessed with an evil spirit (vv. 17-18)
 - Many of the sons’ symptoms resemble a form of epilepsy
 - The disciples have not been able to drive out the spirit
- Jesus’ response is one of frustration and disappointment (v. 19)
- When the spirit sees Jesus, it begins to torture the boy (v. 20)
- Jesus and the father have a short but meaningful conversation (vv. 21-24)
 - Jesus’ inquiry about the length of the possession shows His compassion
 - The father conditions Jesus’ help on “if” Jesus can do anything
 - Jesus challenges the father, who asks for more faith
- As the crowd builds, Jesus commands the evil spirit to leave the boy (vv. 25-27)
 - The spirit so shakes the boy that the crowd thinks he’s been killed
 - Jesus helps the now-healed boy to his feet

What could be the cause of the argument between the scribes and disciples?

In what ways can our failures hurt the faith of others?

Who needed to hear and understand Jesus’ statement in verse 23?

How does the father’s request in verse 24 reflect our faith walk?

The disciples’ failure is explained (vv. 28-29)

Matt. 17:19-21

- The disciples ask Jesus why they could not drive out the evil spirit
 - Jesus explains that it takes prayer to make this happen
 - Most scholars believe that “and fasting” was added by the early church

What is the scope and quality of the prayer Jesus says is required?