

Calvary Chapel Cajon

Women's Bible Studies

Mark 9

Lesson 8

We come now to the ninth chapter of the Gospel of Mark, where we see Jesus' focus is on training His disciples. The chapter begins with the account of Jesus being transfigured before Peter, James, and John at the top of the Mount of Transfiguration. While the three are watching glory, the remaining disciples are at the bottom of the Mount experiencing failure. In this chapter, Jesus mentioned His upcoming death twice - twice His disciples failed to understand. Rather, we find them disputing over who will be greatest. The chapter ends with an admonition as Jesus warned about the seriousness and reality of hell. At this point, the disciples failed to understand much of what Jesus was saying to them. As you study, may the Lord open your heart to understand what they did not.

DAY ONE: Read Mark 9

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

2. How would you title this chapter? Record your title on the **Chapter Titles Chart**.

3. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbols**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

God (My [verse 7]), Jesus, immediately, kingdom of God, believe(s), understand, sin, and any references to religious rulers

New to this lesson: *rise/risen/rising*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Mark 9. Remember, as you mark the key words *Jesus* and *God*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them.

4. Scan the many references to Jesus in this chapter. List five things revealed about Him.

5. The contrasting word *but* is used twelve times in Mark 9. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted and the significance of the contrast.

DAY TWO: Read Mark 9:1-13

1. Mark 9:1 belongs with the last verse of Mark 8. What did Jesus tell those who were *standing* with Him?
2. *After six days*, three of the disciples saw *the kingdom of God present with power*. What did they see? verse 2

Challenge: Using a Bible dictionary, define the word *transfigured*.

- a. Describe what happened to Jesus' clothes. verse 3
3. *Moses and Elijah* joined Jesus on the Mount. *Afraid and not knowing what to say*, what did Peter say? verse 5
 4. *A voice came out of the cloud*. What did He say? verse 7
 - a. What is implied by God's command that we *hear* Jesus?
 - b. What are some statements Jesus has made that you often need to *hear* or be reminded of?
 5. The next recorded statement of Jesus was well worth hearing. What did He say to them that they *questioned* or did not understand?
 - a. What do you think your reaction would have been to this experience on the Mount?

6. *And they asked Him, saying, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"* (verse 11) What was Jesus' *answer*?
 - a. Record the prophesy of Malachi 4:5
 - b. What does Matthew 11:(12), 14 add to your understanding?

Note: We are not to understand that John the Baptist was the actual Elijah of the Old Testament, nor that his appearance and ministry to Israel fulfilled the prophecy of the future coming and ministry of Elijah, but that he came in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the hearts of Israel for the first coming of the Messiah as Elijah will do for His second coming.

DAY THREE: Read Mark 9:14-29

1. Coming down from the Mount, what did Jesus see *when He came to the (rest of the) disciples*?
 - a. When Jesus asked what was being *discussed*, a *man of the crowd answered*. What did he tell Jesus? verses 17,18
 - 1.) Using verses 17, 18, 20, and 22, describe the behavior of the boy provoked by the *unclean spirit*.
2. Record the plea of the father from verse 22.
 - a. What did Jesus say in response? verse 23
 - 1.) Explain, as you might to a new Christian, what you think Jesus meant.
 - b. *Immediately*, what did the father *cry out*? verse 24
 - 1.) This father's *unbelief* did not prevent Jesus from healing his son. His small amount of *belief* was enough. What lesson can we learn from this?

- 2.) Consider something where your *belief* and *unbelief* are mixed. How does this story encourage or challenge you?
 - a.) What has helped you overcome your *unbelief*?

3. Jesus required that the father *believe* Him. What did He tell the disciples they lacked to be able to *cast out the unclean spirit*? verse 29
 - a. In what areas of life do you think you fail to see success because you fail to *pray*?

Challenge: Do some research on *fasting* and share two things that you discovered.

DAY FOUR: Read Mark 9:30-41

1. As Jesus and the disciples *passed through Galilee*, He returned to the topic He began when He and the three disciples were leaving the Mount of Transfiguration. What did He *teach* them? verse 31
 - a. Again, we see that the disciples *did not understand* and *were afraid to ask Him*. Ponder a time when you shared something painful in your life with someone and they did not respond. How did you feel?
 - 1.) In what way are you encouraged to know that Jesus knows that kind of pain too?

2. As they were walking to Capernaum, the disciples *disputed among themselves*? What were they debating?
 - a. Jesus had asked them a question, yet they did not answer Him. Still, He knew. What did He say to them? verse 35
 - 1.) What does it mean to be *a servant of all*?

b. To illustrate this, what did Jesus do? verses 36,37

1.) Why do you think Jesus used a *child* as an example?

3. Changing the subject, John told Jesus *we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us* (verse 38). Jesus corrected him in verses 39-41. Using your own words, write what Jesus wanted John to understand.

a. What lesson can we learn from this?

DAY FIVE: Read Mark 9:42-50

1. Jesus brought the subject back to the *little ones*. Record His strong admonition from verse 42.

2. Carefully read Mark 9:42-48. What do you understand Jesus to be saying?

3. Close today's lesson by answering the following questions:

a. How can a person's *hand, foot, or eye* cause him or her to *sin*?

b. How do you think a Christian can cause others to sin?

c. In what ways is causing another person to sin worse than sinning yourself?

DAY SIX: Review Mark 9

1. Seeing Jesus *transfigured* and talking with Elijah and Moses caused Peter to respond without thinking. What do you think you might have said?

2. What does this lesson teach us about the importance of:

believing

prayer and fasting

3. Share one thing from this lesson that has impacted you or challenged you.

*For He received from God the Father honor and glory
when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory:
"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

- 2 Peter 1:17

Chapter Nine

¹And He said to them, *"Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."* ²Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. ³His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them. ⁴And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"-- ⁶because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid. ⁷And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" ⁸Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus with themselves. ⁹Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead. ¹⁰So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant. ¹¹And they asked Him, saying, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" ¹²Then He answered and told them, *"Indeed, Elijah is coming first and restores all things. And how is it written concerning the Son of Man, that He must suffer many things and be treated with contempt?"* ¹³*But I say to you that Elijah has also come, and they did to him whatever they wished, as it is written of him."* ¹⁴And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them. ¹⁵Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him. ¹⁶And He asked the scribes, *"What are you discussing with them?"* ¹⁷Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. ¹⁸And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." ¹⁹He answered him and said, *"O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me."* ²⁰Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. ²¹So He asked his father, *"How long has this been happening to him?"* And he said, "From childhood. ²²And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." ²³Jesus said to him, *"If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."* ²⁴Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" ²⁵When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, *"Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"* ²⁶Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. ²⁸And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁹So He said to them, *"This kind can come out by nothing but prayer"*

and fasting." ³⁰Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. ³¹For He taught His disciples and said to them, *"The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."* ³²But they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him. ³³Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, *"What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?"* ³⁴But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest. ³⁵And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, *"If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."* ³⁶Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, ³⁷*"Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me."* ³⁸Now John answered Him, saying, "Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us." ³⁹But Jesus said, *"Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me. ⁴⁰For he who is not against us is on our side. ⁴¹For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward. ⁴²But 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. ⁴³If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched-- ⁴⁴where 'Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'* ⁴⁵And 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-- ⁴⁶where 'Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.' ⁴⁷And 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-- ⁴⁸where 'Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.' ⁴⁹For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. ⁵⁰Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another."