

# MARK 9:1-29

## OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

1. What does Jesus tell "them" in verse 1? What happens six days later?
2. What happens to Jesus, and who comes to talk with Jesus?
3. Note the response of Peter and the disciples described in verses 5-6.
4. What does the voice from the cloud say? What event does this remind you of in Mark?
5. What causes the disciples to have a discussion? What statement do they "seize" upon?
6. What questions do they have about Elijah, and how does Jesus respond?
7. What were the disciples doing while Jesus, Peter, James, and John were on the mountain?
8. What is the reaction to Jesus when the crowd sees him (v. 15)?
9. Describe what the demon does to the boy (vs. 17-18, 20, 22, 26).
10. What does the text tell you about why the disciples could not cast out the demon?
11. What does the text tell you about belief?

## INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. In what sense would some of those standing with Jesus see the kingdom of God before they died? Who is Jesus talking about and what would they see? Does this prophecy come true in this passage? Explain.
2. What elements do the baptism and transfiguration have in common? What is the significance of the transfiguration? What is the connection between the transfiguration and the resurrection of Jesus?
3. When did Elijah "come" (v. 12-13)? Who is being referred to here?
4. Why couldn't the disciples cast out the demon? What connects faith & prayer?
5. In verse 23, Jesus appears to be saying the same things that prosperity preachers espouse. What is Jesus saying in verse 23 about belief and the power of belief?

## APPLICATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME/US?

1. The transfiguration was an event to demonstrate beforehand the power of God and the reality of His kingdom. The connection the disciples were supposed to make was that the power of God was sufficient to carry them through death to the resurrection, exactly what Jesus had begun to communicate to the disciples (8:31; 9:9). What does resurrection mean to you? Are you ready to die? Is there a way to prepare for your death?
2. What is your process of prayer? Spend some time this week exploring prayer. Come up with one thing you can do to improve the dynamics of your prayer practice.
3. When in your life were you energized by prayer, when you gained strength to overcome because you spent time in prayer?
4. How do you deal with the dynamics of belief vs. unbelief?

## ACTION PLAN

Spend time personally and with others in coming up with an action plan inspired by your study. What in this passage compels you to desire a change, to move to action, to become more like Jesus? It could be a change in thinking, behavior, character. It could be internal or external. It could be personal or relational. Just don't leave studying the Bible as simply an intellectual exercise.