

WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS?



Who Do You Say He Is?
Mark 9:14-29

"Who do you say that I am?" This is the question that Jesus asked his disciple, Peter? And this is the question people asked throughout Jesus' earthly life. From his teachings to his healings and to the miracles he performed, people wrestled with the identity of Jesus. The Gospel of Mark was written to answer just this question—Who do you say Jesus is? And this question is as relevant today as it was 2,000 years ago when Jesus asked it of Peter? In our journey through the Gospel of Mark we will study the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus and ask ourselves, "Who do you say he is?"

Faith in Jesus can happen on the mountaintop and in the valley.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

Mark 9:14-29

14 And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. **15** And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. **16** And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” **17** And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. **18** And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” **19** And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” **20** And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. **21** And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. **22** And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” **23** And Jesus said to him, “‘If you can’! All things are possible for one who believes.” **24** Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” **25** And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” **26** And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” **27** But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. **28** And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” **29** And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

- Compare and contrast what happened on the mount of transfiguration with Peter, James, and John and what was happening with the remaining disciples at the base of the mountain. What was similar? What was different?
- When Jesus says, “O faithless generation,” who do you think he was referring to and why?
- Now compare and contrast the father’s faith with the disciples’ faith? How are they similar? How are they different?
- How are we like the father, having both belief and unbelief simultaneously?
- Read Mark 6:7-13. Previously the disciples were able to cast out demons. Why do you think the disciples could not cast out the unclean spirit now?
- Jesus connects prayer to faith in Mark 9:29. What is the relationship between prayer and faith?

- As you reflect on your own life, what does faith in Jesus look like “on the mountaintop?” What does faith in Jesus look like “in the valley?”
- How can you cultivate and strengthen your faith on the mountaintop so you are ready for valley?
- The disciples needed faith to cast out an unclean spirit. What might the Lord be preparing you for that will require more faith or strengthened faith?
- If faith and prayer are closely connected as Jesus implies, close by praying for one another. What do we each need the Lord to do to strengthen our faith?