

4. Conclusion

A. When we find ourselves in situations that are more than we can handle, turn to Jesus in prayer instead of relying on our own strength.

B. God places us in situations beyond our ability to teach us to pray so we learn to depend on Him.

Am I like the disciples that were too proud to pray because they wanted to handle things in their own strength, or am I like the humble father who called out to Jesus asking him to come to the rescue?

Life Group Questions

1. Read Mark 9:15-29 to familiarize yourself with the passage.
2. What was the attack strategy of the demon on the boy? Why does the father ask if Jesus could have compassion on "us" — not only the boy but the father as well?
3. How does this tragedy turn out for good as it drives this father to Jesus?
4. Why doesn't this story end with the casting out of the demon? Why does it return to the disciples' pride and unwillingness to pray? How does this fit what the disciples need to learn? (See also Luke 11:5-13)
5. Evaluate your own prayer life. Does pride keep you from praying?
6. Are there examples in your life where desperation has driven you in prayer to Jesus? Share some of those examples. What do you have in your life that you are trying to handle on your own that you should bring to Jesus? What is keeping you from bringing those things to Jesus?

MARK THE KING AND THE CROSS

Mark 9:14-29 – Too Proud To Pray

October 6, 2019

1. The problem of demons.

And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. Mark 9:14 (ESV)

And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. Mark 9:15 (ESV)

And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" Mark 9:16 (ESV)

And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. 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." Mark 9:17-18 (ESV)

And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him. Luke 9:39 (ESV)

And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and, kneeling before him,... Matthew 17:14 (ESV)

And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them. Mark 6:13 (ESV)

2. The problem of unbelief.

And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you?" Mark 9:19 (ESV)

...Bring him to me. 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. Mark 9:19–20 (ESV)

And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him." Mark 9:21–22a (ESV)

"...But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, " 'If you can!' All things are possible for one who believes." Mark 9:22b–23 (ESV)

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" Mark 9:24 (ESV)

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." 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." Mark 9:25–26 (ESV)

But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. Mark 9:27 (ESV)

...But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. Luke 9:42 (ESV)

3. The problem of prayerlessness.

And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer." Mark 9:28–29 (ESV)