

# Mark 9

## Mark 9.1-8

**V1 – What prediction did Jesus make at this time?** That some of the people alive then would see the kingdom of God come "with power"

- Is the kingdom still going to come?** No – The premillennialists are wrong
- There is not going to be a special kingdom of God that will come in the "last days"
- How would the kingdom come?** With power – **Read Luke 24.49, Acts 1.7-8, Acts 2.2-4**
- The kingdom came with power on the Day of Pentecost in *Acts 2* – **Read Colossians 1.13**

**V2 – What do you think was the purpose of the Transfiguration?** To strengthen the faith of the apostles

- Why did their faith need to be strengthened?** The cross was coming soon
- What did he take just these three apostles?** They had the most potential and talents

**V3 – How did Jesus appear at the Transfiguration?** His garments were very white

- Interesting: launderers are mentioned in the Bible

**V4 – Who else appeared with Jesus here?** Moses and Elijah

- Why these two men?** Elijah was the greatest of the Old Testament prophets, and Moses was the great law-giver
- So the prophets and the law were summed up in Elijah and Moses

**V5 – Who spoke up at this time?** Peter (as was his habit)

- What was his suggestion?** That they build three booths to commemorate the event

**V6 – Why had Peter spoken?** Because he didn't know what else to do

- But that is always a dangerous time to speak (even today)
- Peter always wanted to speak up, even when it meant getting into trouble

**V7 – In the Old Testament, the cloud of God was called the Shekinah – See *Exodus 13.21, Psalm 78.14***

- What was the message from God?** Jesus was his beloved son; listen to him
- Where else have we seen this message?** **Read Mark 1.11**
- Read 2 Peter 1.16-19** – Peter made a reference back to the Mt. of Transfiguration
- It had had made a great impact on his life
- Compare *Mark 9.7* and *2 Peter 1.17* – see *Matthew 17.5* – Mark did not record all of the statement that was said on this occasion
- What was the message from God in this verse?** That the Old Testament was dead
- We are not to go back to it, because Christ has replaced the Old Law (robes, incense, instrumental music, priesthood, etc.)

**V8 – This vision came to a dramatic end**

## Mark 9.9-13

**V 9** – The three apostles must have been very confused about why Jesus told them not to tell anyone these things

-**When were they allowed to tell about this event?** After the resurrection

**V 10** – **What confused them next?** What it meant to rise from the dead

-**What does this indicate about their thinking?** Still could not understand much about Christ

**V 11** – **What question did they ask Jesus next?** Why do the Pharisees say that Elijah must come first?

-This is another reference to *Malachi 4.5-6* – people were still confusing Elijah and John the Baptist

**V 12** – **What Old Testament prophecy did Jesus refer them to?** *Isaiah 53* – that the Messiah would suffer much when he came

-In other words, the Pharisees had understood the scripture about Elijah returning correctly, but had missed the passage about the suffering of the Messiah

**V 13** – **What did Jesus go on to say about Elijah and his coming?** He had already come and was mistreated

-**Who mistreated the original Elijah?** Ahab and Jezebel

-**Who mistreated the second Elijah?** Herod and Herodias

-**Any other similarities between Elijah and John the Baptist?** Rough, country men, very outspoken, no compromises

## **Mark 9.14-20**

**V 14** – **What was the scene when Jesus and the three apostles came down off of the mountain?**

The Pharisees were arguing with the other apostles

**V 15** – **Why were the people amazed at Jesus?** His face shown (as the face of Moses did when he came off the mountain after being with God)

**V 16** – **What question did Jesus ask the disciples?** What is the argument about?

**V 17** – **What kind of situation had been brought to the disciples?** A man with a possessed son

-**What did the demon do to the boy?** Made him speechless

**V 18** – **What else did the demon do to the boy?** Threw him to the ground, he foamed at the mouth, ground his teeth, stiffened out (like an epileptic seizure)

-**What had the other apostles done for the boy?** Nothing

**V 19** – Jesus rebuked the apostles - **Why?** Because they did not have enough faith

**V 20** – **What happened next?** The boy had a seizure right there

## **Mark 9.21-29**

**V 21** – **What question did Jesus ask the father of the boy?** How long had this been going on?  
-Answer? From childhood

**V 22** – **How had this boy been injured by the possession?** Thrown into a fire, into water  
-Interesting: ...if you can do anything... -This showed their a lack of faith

**V 23** – **What was the reply of Jesus?** We can do all things if we believe

**V 24** – This is a statement that applies to us all at one time or another  
-We want to believe, but our faith grows weak sometimes  
-We believe, but need more faith

**V 25** – Jesus commanded the spirit to come out of the boy

**V 26** – **What did the spirit do to the boy?** Threw him on the ground; the boy looked dead

**V 27** – **What did Jesus do?** Took him by the hand and raised him up  
-Does this remind you of another miracle in *Mark*? Touching the leper (*Mark 1.41*)

**V 28** – **What did the apostles want to know?** Why they had not been able to heal the boy

**V 29** – **Answer?** Not strong enough prayer  
-Too many people pray only when there is an emergency and only on special occasions, but we need to pray at all times every day – we will never know all the good that has been done by prayer

## **Mark 9.30-37**

**V 30** – **What old pattern do we see once again?** Jesus did not want publicity, so they were traveling incognito – he needed secrecy so that he could teach the apostles more

**V 31** – **What was he teaching them?** That he would be killed, but would rise from the dead on the third day

**V 32** – **Did they understand this statement?** No, and they were afraid to ask

**V 33** – **Where did they go next?** Back to Capernaum (probably to Peter's house)  
-Why did he ask them what they were talking about? To let them voluntarily tell him

**V 34** – **What had they been talking about?** Who was going to be the greatest in the kingdom?  
-Why would they have not wanted Jesus to know a bout that discussion? It was very selfish in nature

**V 35** – **What basic principle did he teach them at this time?** The person who wants to be first will be last  
-What might have caused this discussion? The fact that only Peter, James, and John were taken up on the mountain  
-In other words, why didn't they all get to go?

**V 36 – What kind of illustration did he use next?** A little child (children were apparently around them and not separated from them) – children's worship has some problems  
-**What did Jesus do to the child?** Took him in his arms  
-This shows the compassion of Jesus toward children

**V 37 – What basic principle did he teach here?** To show kindness even to a child is the same as showing kindness to Christ, which is the same as showing kindness to God the Father

## **Mark 9.38-41**

**V 38 – What kind of reputation did James and John have?** They were known as "sons of thunder"  
-*Luke 9.54* – they wanted to call down fire from heaven on a Samaritan city that did not accept Jesus  
-So here is an extension of that kind of thinking  
-**What had John and the others seen?** Someone casting out demons, but not a follower of the apostles  
-**What had John tried to do?** Stop the man

**V 39 – What was the attitude of Jesus about this?** The man was not to be stopped  
-If he performed a miracle in the name of Jesus, then he was doing good

**V 40 – What two choices did Jesus give to the world?** Either for or against Jesus

**V 41 – Great principle:** we are to accept all help in the name of Christ, even if it is just a cup of cold water  
-We don't have to know all the faithful followers of Christ, in order to be helped by them

## **Mark 9.42-50**

-Some miscellaneous sayings of Jesus are given here

**V 42 – What would the "little ones" refer to?** Possibly children, but probably new Christians and weak Christians

-**What warning did Jesus give about them?** No-one should make them stumble

-**What would be the punishment for causing a weaker Christian to stumble?** Millstone around neck and thrown into the sea

**V 43 – What can cause a person to stumble?** Even his hand

-General principle: Cut off the hand, because it is better to enter heaven without a hand (example: shoplifting)

-**Did Jesus mean this literally?** No – **Read 1 Corinthians 6.19-20**

-He meant to remove anything that is making us weak spiritually

**V 44 – What do we find out about hell here?** It is eternal (not like the Jehovah Witnesses say)

**V 45 – What principle did Jesus give next?** Cut off foot if it causes you to stumble

**V 46 – Another reminder?** The eternal nature of hell

**V 47** – **What principle did Jesus give next?** Cast your eye out if it causes you to stumble, as with sin of pornography

**V 48** – Another reminder of the eternal nature of hell

**V 49** – **Meaning?** Everyone will go through the Judgment Day (salted with fire)

**V 50** – Another use of the symbol of salt: the Christian is to maintain his "saltiness," in other words, his influence over other people around him  
-Remember in v 33 how the apostles were arguing among themselves

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