

Jesus Makes It Safe...To Share My Story

Thomas Thompson

Mark 9:14-29; Matthew 9:36

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

When we feel safe to share our story, we find ourselves in God's story

God loves our stories because in them, He is revealed.

*How have you edited and airbrushed your stories to feel safe?

*Do you believe God loves stories? Why or why not?

Read and discuss Mark 9:14-29 (NTE)

¹⁴ *The four of them made their way back to the other disciples. There they saw a large crowd surrounding them, and legal experts arguing with them. ¹⁵ As soon as the crowd saw Jesus they were astounded, and they all ran up to greet him.*

¹⁶ *'What's all the fuss about?' he asked. ¹⁷ 'Teacher,' said someone from the crowd, 'I brought my son to you. He's got a spirit that stops him speaking. ¹⁸ Whenever it takes hold of him it throws him on the ground; he foams at the mouth, and grinds his teeth, and goes rigid. I spoke to your disciples about casting it out, but they couldn't.'*

¹⁹ *'You unbelieving generation!' replied Jesus. 'How much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.'*

²⁰ *They brought him to him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth.*

²¹ *'How long has it been like this with him?' asked Jesus.*

'Since childhood,' replied the man. ²² 'Often it even throws him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything . . . please, please help us! Have pity on us!'

²³ *'What d'you mean, "If you can"?' said Jesus. 'Everything is possible to someone who believes.'*

²⁴ *At this the father gave a great shout. 'I do believe!' he roared. 'Help me in my unbelief!'*

²⁵ *Jesus saw that the crowd was getting bigger by the minute. He scolded the unclean spirit: 'Speechless and deaf spirit,' he said, 'I command you – come out of him, and never go back again!'*

²⁶ *The spirit yelled, gave the boy a huge convulsion, and came out. The boy seemed to be dead; in fact, several people did say 'He's dead!' ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up.*

²⁸ *'Why couldn't we cast it out?' asked his disciples, once they were back in the house by themselves.*

²⁹ *'This sort,' replied Jesus, 'can only be cast out by prayer.'*

*What is this passage saying to you?

*How do you see Jesus making it safe for the father to share his story?

*Have you seen Jesus as a safe place to tell your story? How can the church be a safe place?

Transparency leads to transformation

When we share our story others find Jesus.

*How does being transparent invite others into the story of God?

*How have you been transformed by telling your true story?

*Are there parts of your story that you still need to share with Jesus?

*Who is He stirring you to share your story with?