

In His Likeness– Mark Scene 23

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Mark 9:14-29

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

What someone DOES can actually be a distraction from getting to know who someone IS

We are much more than the sum of our actions.

*Does what you 'do' give people a preconceived notion about you?

Read and discuss Mark 9:14-24 (NIV)

¹⁴ When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. ¹⁵ As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

¹⁶ "What are you arguing with them about?" he asked.

¹⁷ A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸ Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

¹⁹ "You unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

²⁰ So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

²¹ Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"

"From childhood," he answered. ²² "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

²³ "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."

²⁴ Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

*What does this passage show us about God? About people?

*What is this passage saying to you? Is there something here to share with someone else?

I do believe. Help me overcome my unbelief

Jesus accepts this honest take on the difficulty of faith.

*Where do you see yourself in that statement? What circumstances come to mind?

*How does this phrase and Jesus' response to it encourage you as you follow him?

Faith needs to be rooted in who Jesus is, not in what Jesus can do

Faith that is placed in what we believe God is capable of is not really faith at all.

*What is the difference between faith and belief?

*When have you been shaken by what God does or doesn't do?

*How does this misplaced faith distract us from who He is?

After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

Mark 9:28-29

Jesus' response calls them to prayer, not a formula that gets him to do what they wanted

He calls us to real faith, knowing WHO HE IS. Prayer is the conversation that keeps our faith alive.

*What is your relationship with prayer? What is hard about it for you? How has it helped keep your faith alive?

*How can prayer help us keep our focus on who He is, not what He can do for us?