

## The Gospel of Mark 9:14-50 (ESV)

Parallel accounts: *Matt. 17:14–20, Luke 9:37–43*

<sup>14</sup> And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. <sup>15</sup> And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. <sup>16</sup> And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” <sup>17</sup> And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. <sup>18</sup> 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.” <sup>19</sup> 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.” <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. <sup>22</sup> 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.” <sup>23</sup> And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” <sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” <sup>25</sup> 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.” <sup>26</sup> 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.” <sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. <sup>28</sup> And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” <sup>29</sup> And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

<sup>30</sup> They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, <sup>31</sup> for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup> And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” <sup>34</sup> But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” <sup>36</sup> And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

<sup>38</sup> John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” <sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup> For the one who is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.

### Discussion Question

How often do you pray? Is there one thing or person you consistently pray for?

### Bible Study Questions

#### Context: Chapter 9 Summary

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1. Who were the scribes mentioned in verse 14 and what were they arguing about with the disciples? (See Mark 1:22, 3:22)

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2. What method do you think the disciples used in their attempt to cast out the demon? (1 Sam.16:14-17, 23)

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3. Why were the disciples unable to cast out the demon? What challenges were they facing? (Mark 3:14-15, Mark, 6:7, 13, Mark 5:5-13)

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4. Is prayer (and fasting) essential for deliverance? (Eph. 6:16-18, Dan 9:3, 2 Sam. 12:16, Neh. 1:4, Luke 2:37)

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5. Is there anything you have tried to do in Jesus' name but have been unsuccessful?

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6. Re-read verses 17-18 and 22. Is there an irony you can draw from these verses? What makes the father in this story have unbelief? Does he have

any faith? If so, where did his faith breakdown? (See Hebrews 11:6, Luke 18:8)

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7. Are there areas of your life that you need the Lord to help your unbelief?

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8. What character from this text are you playing in real life?

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8. How does the disciples debate over positional leadership in verses 33-37, reflect their understanding of Jesus?

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9. Who was the man John saw casting out devils verse 38? Does Jesus' response change the way you think about people outside the church that do good works? (See Luke 10:1-7, Phil 1:15-18)

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10. What change would you like to make as a result of this study? How can the group support you?

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