



Transfiguration/Review

10th Confirmation Class Handout

MARK 9:1-8; 14-29 (The Message)

1 Then Jesus drove his point home by saying, "This isn't pie in the sky by and by. Some of you who are standing here are going to see the kingdom of God arrive in full force." 2 Six days later, three of them did see it. Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain to pray. His appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes. 3 His clothes shimmered, glistening white, whiter than any bleach could make them. 4 Elijah, along with Moses, came into view, and were in deep conversation with Jesus. 5 But then Peter interrupted, "Rabbi, this is a great moment! Let's build three memorials - one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah." 6 He blurted this out without thinking, stunned as they all were by what they were seeing. 7 Immediately, a light-radiant cloud enveloped them, and from deep in the cloud came a voice: "This is my Son, marked by my love. Listen to him." 8 The next minute the disciples were looking around, rubbing their eyes, seeing nothing but Jesus, only Jesus.

14 When Jesus, Peter, James and John came back down the mountain to the other disciples, they saw a huge crowd around them, and the religion scholars were there too, cross-examining the other disciples. 15 As soon as the people in the crowd saw Jesus, admiring excitement stirred them. They ran and greeted him. 16 He asked, "What's going on? What's all the commotion?" 17 A man out of the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought my mute son, made speechless by a demon, to you. 18 Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and goes stiff as a board. I told your disciples, hoping they could deliver him, but they couldn't." 19 Jesus said about his disciples and the Pharisees, "What a generation! No sense of God! How many times do I have to go over these things? How much longer do I have to put up with this? Bring the boy here." 20 They brought him. When the demon saw Jesus, it threw the boy into a seizure, causing him to writhe on the ground and foam at the mouth. 21 He asked the boy's father, "How long has this been going on?" 22 The father answered, "Many times it pitches him into fire or the river to do away with him. If you can do anything, do it. Have a heart and help us!" 23 Jesus said, "If? There are no 'ifs' among believers. Anything can happen." 24 No sooner were the words out of his mouth than the father cried out, "Then I believe. Help me with my doubts!" 25 Seeing that the crowd was forming fast, Jesus gave the vile spirit its marching orders: "Dumb and deaf spirit, I command you - Out of him, and stay out!" 26 Screaming, and with much thrashing about, it left. The boy was pale as a corpse, so people started saying, "He's dead." 27 But Jesus, taking his hand, raised him. The boy stood up. 28 After arriving back home, his disciples cornered Jesus and asked, "Why couldn't we throw the demon out?" 29 He answered, "There is no way to get rid of this kind of demon except by prayer."

CHALLENGE of the Week: With your mentor or parent or one of us teachers, sit down and read **Mark 5:21-43, Luke 24:13-35, or John 5:1-15** . Look specifically for the concepts we've been discussing.

The stories we've studied so far:

- Mark 2:1-12 – The paralytic is lowered through the roof
- Luke 5:1-11 – Jesus tells Peter, James and John to fish on the other side of the boat. They catch lots of fish. They leave everything to follow Jesus.
- MT 16:13-20 – Jesus asks the disciples: Who do others say I am? Who do you think I am?
- MT 14:22-32 – Jesus walks on water/chaos; Peter does too, but then sinks (slowly)
- Mark 6:30 – 44 – Jesus takes the disciples to a lonely place to recuperate, but the crowd follows them. Jesus feeds the crowd of thousands.
- Mark 5:1-20 – Jesus casts out the unclean spirit of “Legion.” The unclean spirit goes into the pigs which then plunge into the sea/chaos. The townspeople ask Jesus to leave. The man who was healed wants to go with Jesus.
- Mark 10:46-52 – Bartimaeus, who is blind, yells out to Jesus for mercy. The crowd and disciples tell him to be quiet. He yells out louder. Jesus restores his eyesight.
- MT 3:1-6;13-17 –All of Jerusalem is baptized by John the Baptist. John tells them to repent. They confess their sins.
- Jesus is then baptized by John too. A voice from heaven claims Jesus as “my son.”
- LUKE 4:1-15 – immediately after being baptized, the Holy Spirit drives Jesus into the wilderness where Jesus is tempted.

Concepts and Ideas that we've discussed so far:

- There are three main groups of people surrounding Jesus: What do we call those three groups?
- What did a disciple do in Jesus' time?
- **Perspective** – where we stand determines what we see and what we think/believe.
- **Experience** – When we experience an event, it cements or changes what we believe. Following Jesus offers many opportunities to experience the workings and presence of God.
- **Abundance** – When we follow Jesus, we experience the abundance of God's life through the Take, Bless, Break, Give pattern exhibited by Jesus.
- **Casting out of Unclean spirits** – we do this by naming internal “stuff” that keeps us from being the truth of who we are.
- **Healing** – crying out – saying out loud what we need help with (our internal stuff), what our problems are – physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually – and then asking God to help us – like Bartimaeus asking Jesus for mercy.
- **Sin** – Means to miss the mark or destination (meaning God - originally used as an archery term)
- **Repent** – Means to “turn around.” So when you sin/miss the mark, once you recognize/name that missing, then the next thing one would do if they chose to do so, would be to turn around, to do a “U-turn” or “recalculate” one's direction (like the GPS in the car tells you to do).
- **Devil** – the word means “divider.”
- **Satan** – the word is Hebrew and means “adversary.”
- **Devil** and **Satan** are used interchangeably in scripture. The stories usually depict the devil/Satan as a person, or as a serpent. This could be true. But it could also just be a literary device used to illustrate the voices we hear in our heads that “divide” or distract our attention
- The word “**temptation**” is interchangeable in scripture with the word “test.” A helpful way to think of temptation is to think of it as the motivation(s) that makes the choice to NOT choose God seem attractive.