



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Mark Sermon Series

Supports Session 7: Strengthens

Sermon Title: "Real Power" (Mark 9:14-29)

Connection to Session 7

Jesus empowers and commissions His followers to be actively engaged in Kingdom work. A lack of focus or dependence on God will cause us to be powerless in this task.

Introduction/Opening

Peter, James, and John had just experienced the transfiguration of Jesus earlier in Mark 9. Having descended the mountain, they found the remaining disciples in a dispute with a group of scribes. A father of a demon-possessed boy had come to the disciples seeking their help only to be disappointed. They were unable to drive out the spirit. The father then went to Jesus.

Outline

1. Power Needed

- a. Earlier in Mark, Jesus had expressly given the apostles the authority to cast out demons. The Twelve were appointed and named. They were given the authority to "drive out demons" (Mark 3:15).
- b. In Mark 9, a father located the apostles seeking help to rid his son of a demon. However, the disciples were unable to drive out the demon.
- c. Approaching Jesus, the father lamented "I asked your disciples to drive it out, but they couldn't" (v. 18).
- d. The critical need of the boy was unmet. The father was frustrated. Jesus was not pleased.

2. Power Demonstrated

- a. Jesus was willing to step in and bring deliverance. Jesus reminded the disciples and informed the frustrated dad that everything was possible to those who believe (v. 23).

- b. The boy's father asked for faith to overcome his unbelief.
- c. Jesus rebuked the demon who exited his human host after convulsing him violently. Finally, the boy was set free of the demon.

3. The Source of Our Power

- a. The disciples questioned Jesus, asking "Why couldn't we drive it out?" (v. 28).
- b. Jesus informed them that the demon could only come out with prayer (v. 29). The disciples would need to depend on God's power to do what only He can do.
- c. As Christians, we are also invited to participate in Kingdom work. However, we will be powerless if we attempt to minister to others in our own strength. We will need to depend fully on God and seek Him continually. He is our only source of power.

Conclusion

Jesus was disappointed at the chaos that greeted Him as He descended from the mount of transfiguration. He urged the disciples to take up prayer and the spiritual power it offers us. We are called to serve others and participate in God's work, but we cannot do it on our own. The power to do His work comes from God; we must depend on Him to accomplish His work in and through us.

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