

Faith's Power over Darkness

Text: Mark 9:14-29

Context: Peter, James, and John had just experienced the mountain top "Transfiguration" of Jesus - where His glory was displayed to them. They now come off the mountain and back into the reality of a broken world. They encounter a situation with a father and his demon possessed son.

When you are confronted with unmovable darkness...

1. _____ to Jesus (vs. 14-22)

- A. This man had sought out Jesus for the needs of his mute son. He first encountered the disciples who could not help, but then Jesus showed up.
- B. Even though this man had what appears to be a struggling faith, Jesus was patient with him and received him and helped him.

2. _____ out for more faith (vs. 23-26)

- A. Admitting the imperfection of his faith, mixed as it was with doubt, the desperate father pleaded with Jesus to help him to have the greater faith the Lord demanded of him. (John MacArthur)
- B. Jesus offered encouragement: "All things are possible for one who believes (9:23)." The problem was that the man's faith was weak and mixed with doubt. He said, "I believe; help my unbelief (9:24)." If you find yourself doubting God, let this man's cry be your prayer. Be honest with God about your doubts and proceed in faith. God will honor your faith and strengthen it in spite of your doubt. (Tony Evans)

3. _____ to prayer (vs. 27-29)

- A. Many have misinterpreted this passage to mean that certain types ("This kind") of demons will not come out but through prayer, emphasizing some type of "super prayer" for "super demons." The words, "this kind" refer more to the entire species of demons - therefore all demons can be driven out by prayer.
- B. The disciples had not failed to pray "the correct words". They had failed to pray at all. When we fail to pray, we too will fail.