

KINGDOM

the gospel of mark

Week 9 | Kingdom: The Gospel of Mark | March 1, 2015

Opening Up:

- We all have peaks and valleys in our lives. Can you name a recent peak and a recent valley event in your life?
- What have you learned about yourself at the peaks and the valleys? How are those lessons different?

Read (or reference): Mark 9:2-29

Discuss:

1. In verses 2-8 Jesus is transfigured. There is a gap that exist between God and man. Jesus reveals at the moment of his transfiguration that he is the God on the other side of "the gap," and he is the bridge over the gap. He is not only the God we need, but the Mediator, the way to come into the presence of the Holy and the Glory. Have you ever felt in awe of God? Have you ever been moved by his presence? Tell about your experience.
2. In verses 4:12 we see that Jesus appears with Elijah, representative of the prophets, and Moses, representative of the law. This covers the Old Testament and its testimony about who Jesus was and what he had come to do. God is a missionary God who has been working throughout all of human history to bridge the gap between humanity and himself. In what ways has God sought you? What evidences point to God's mission after you?
3. In verses 2-8 the voice in the cloud speaks. God says, "Listen to him." You give power to whoever you listen to. What is different in your life when you "listen" to Jesus more than you listen to yourself or others? How do you listen to Jesus?
4. In verse 14-29 Jesus goes from the mountain top to the valley. What do we need to learn from mountain top experiences with God? What do we need to learn from valley experiences with God? Jesus experienced the mountain top, but he lived in the valley. What can we learn from the way Jesus approached ministry?
5. In verse 19-23 we find that the disciples were functional unbelievers because they were not praying. They were attempting a prayerless exorcism on a demon-possessed boy. When are you tempted to live like a functional unbeliever? What do you need to be praying for? How does verse 23 help you to be motivated to pray?
6. The father responds in verse 24, "I believe, help my unbelief." Can you relate to this? What are reasons for belief? What are reasons for doubts? When have you felt like this?
7. Tim Keller says, "Through Jesus we don't need perfect righteousness, just repentant helplessness, to access the presence of God." How does this idea help you?
8. Pray.