



Only By Prayer

Mark 9:1-29 | Ryan Pfeiffer | January 8, 2023

Mark 8:34 “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

The first thing Jesus does is teach about PRAYER.

Opens with a promise of Power—> ends with a call to Prayer.

Last time Jesus prayed was on a mountain. (6:46). Now brings us w/ Him.

Mark: 12 references to Prayer. 10/12 are Ch 9-16. ESSENTIAL! Repetitive

How do we go to the CROSS without Prayer? We don't. We won't. We can't.

FOCUS: Prayer steeps us in God's PRESENCE and strengthens our faith in His POWER?

THE MOUNTAIN. 2 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all **alone**.

It's hard for some of us to get alone W/ GOD. PEOPLE, TASKS, FEAR, BORED

vs.14 “when they came to the other disciples they saw a large crowd...”

There's a denying of ourselves in order to get alone. Our Important tasks.

Prayer is steeping in God's **PRESENCE**.

So when we return to our crowded lives... we bring God's presence w/ us.

vs 2b “There he was transfigured before them”

Prayer is where we renew our vision and love for Jesus. Regain perspective.

We lose sight of Who Jesus is to us... we get focused on the “crowd”

7 ... and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”

My Son whom I love... without prayer our love for Jesus grows dim.

Listen to him... Disciples are freaked out! Suffering... rejection... death! Peter rebukes Jesus!

Prayer renews our vision and love for Jesus.

THE BOY. 19 “You unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.”

We all need strengthening of our faith.

When have you needed to strengthen your faith?

There is an ebb and flow to faith

Faith can weaken and diminish.

Faith can rise up and expand.

Faith can be weakened

Faith can be strengthened.

Faith is a gift from God.
Faith is a gift we steward and cultivate by grace.
How do you strengthen YOUR faith?

Tozer: Faith is the gaze of soul upon a saving God.

To the Father he says— v. 23 “Everything is possible for one who believes”
To the disciples he says— vs. 29 He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”

Prayer and faith are inseparable.
Prayer opens our eyes and our ears to Jesus so see...

❖ our circumstances in the LIGHT OF JESUS vs Jesus in the light of our circumstances.

Jesus asks v21 “How long has he been like this?” ... Father: “From Childhood”

Hard to believe anything can change...
There are challenges facing our life, our family, our generation that will ONLY be overcome by PRAYER.

It doesn't mean an either/ or... practical steps sure...

PRAYER must take center Stage... so JESUS can take center stage.

28 After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn't we drive it out?”

There is no substitute for prayer... where our faith in his power grows.
There are ways we pray that don't increase our faith in God.

We shrink from bringing our whole selves into prayer. HONEST.
We forget that the more we steep the stronger the coffee! TIME.
We focus on how we feel vs God's faithfulness.

APPLICATION:

1. Find your mountain top: Where you can soak. 60min/ 1/wk.
 - with a friend, spouse, alone.
2. Find a promise or truth from scripture that speaks directly, powerfully to your circumstance.
 - memorize. meditate. declare out loud.
3. Ask God to speak to you: Journal/ write down what you hear God saying.