

Pray First 1-28-24 – Pastor Guy – Mark 9:14-29

1. Jason Gray said that in life we move from order, to disorder, to reorder. What are your thoughts about this statement?
2. What role does prayer have in your life as you deal with ‘disorder’ or struggles in life?

Mark 9:17-18 - And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. ¹⁸ And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.”

3. How do you think that each of the different people and groups were feeling in this situation? (The father, the son, the disciples, Jesus, the Teachers of the Law, the crowd)
4. In Mark 6:7-13 we read that Jesus sent the disciples out and they cast out demons and healed the sick. Why do you think that they couldn’t cast out this spirit?

Mark 9:19-27 - And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” ²⁰ And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹ And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. ²² And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” ²³ And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” ²⁵ And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” ²⁶ And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

5. In what areas do you believe, but still have some unbelief?
6. What thoughts or questions do you have about this event?
7. What do you think the people and groups were feeling after Jesus cast out the spirit?
8. What would you be feeling if you were there?

Mark 9: 28-29 - And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁹ And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

9. What did Jesus say was the reason that the disciples couldn’t drive out the spirit?
10. We don’t read that anyone prayed in this situation, what do you think Jesus meant when he said this?

Mark 1:35 - Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

11. Jesus made it a habit to pray consistently. How do you think this impacted his ability to cast out this spirit?
12. What do you think prayer accomplishes?
13. Pastor Guy said that God doesn’t do some things (that He wants to do) without prayer. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
14. Why do you think that God would wait to do some things until we pray?
15. In Mark 9:23 Jesus says, “**All things are possible for one who believes**”. What message is Jesus saying here?
16. Why do you think that God doesn’t answer some prayers the way we would like, even if the prayers are for good things?
17. What have you prayed about that has not yet changed?
18. What do you want to pray about now?