

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

June 13, 2021

When the life of great people in the Bible is evaluated, it may be inspiring because of the results they experienced, but it is certainly not enticing. How would you like to be Abraham? God told him to leave friends and family and go to a place where hardly anyone lived. He waited twenty-five years to have a son. He probably expected to have a nation by then. What would you do if you had to wait this long? During this time there was a famine in the land, he had to fight to get Lot and his family back after the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah were defeated, and he had the struggle to resolve problems between Sarah and Hagar. Each day he had to get up and take care of sheep, away from family and friends, interact with neighboring nations and kings, all because of what God told him to do. No results, but constant promises from God for twenty-five years. We may admire the results, but what about his day-to-day life?



How about Daniel? Came to Babylon as a young man. Lived there until he was old, maybe in his eighties. He had to go on a vegetable fast as soon as he arrived. He risked being killed by the king. He had no family, just his three friends. The king changed his name, gave him strange clothes to wear, and told him what to do every day. His friends were placed in a fire, his enemies tried to kill him, he had to sleep with lions all night, he went through several kings so that as soon as he became great under one king, God's prophesy was fulfilled, and he had to get used to another king. Here again, are results you may admire or even covet, but what about his day-to-day life?

How about the day-to-day life of Ruth? Lost her husband at a young age, decided to go to a strange country, work in the hot sun day after day for a woman that was not her sister or mother. She married a man that fell in love with her. She did this because of Jewish law and humbled herself to go out to the fields at night risking rejection by this man her mother-in-law, that she is slaving for, told her to marry. Because of her history and the fact that she is in the line of Christ, we would admire her commitment and her blessing of being married to a rich landowner, but what about her day-to-day life?

Great people were great because they kept their eyes on the mark of a higher calling (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 4:7-16; Hebrews 12:1-3). What made them great was their commitment to die to self and live a life (John 12:23-26) under the constant control of the Word and the Spirit of God (Colossians 3:1-4). Great lives were those who made great sacrifices for God. When we focus on their life, and the results God provided, it should strengthen our day-to-day faith.

## UPCOMING Events

<p><b>MEN'S MINISTRY</b> Saturday, June 19th @ 10 a.m. KINGDOM BUILDERS Conversation   Fellowship   Food For more information contact: Tony Hall @tonyhall1992@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>MEN'S MINISTRY –KINGDOM BUILDERS</b> Calling all men we are inviting you every third Saturday of the month for Fellowship, Conversations, Worship, Bible Study, and Food. Walk with us and build genuine relationships with Men who are pursuing God. Next meeting is <b>Sat., June 26th at 10:00 a.m.</b></p>
<p><b>ABC Word Academy Summer Program</b> Ages 2 to 3rd grade \$85 NEED A SMALL AND INTIMATE SETTING THAT'S FILLED WITH LOVE, LEARNING, AND FUN! (281) 445-9673 7350 T.C. Jester Blvd.   Houston, TX 77088</p>	<p><b>SUMMER SPECIAL INVITE:</b> Need a small and intimate setting that's filled with love, learning and fun. <i>2-years-old to 3rd grade.</i> Family and Friends cost is \$85.00  Our teachers are vaccinated and CDC guidelines are being followed. Call 281-445-9673.</p>
<p><b>LIFE APPLICATION CLASSES</b> SUNDAYS AT 10 A.M. June 6th   10:00am TO START VISIT: <a href="http://bit.ly/lwfcconnections">bit.ly/lwfcconnections</a> www.lwfc.org</p>	<p>Life App Classes are Back in person and virtually on Free Conference Call. Learn how to practically apply the word of God in your life. See you after First Service!  Contact your Deacon Family for your Free Conference Call Meeting Information or visit <a href="http://bit.ly/lwfcconnections">bit.ly/lwfcconnections</a>  Life Application is Key so Walk With Us in Life Application Classes!</p>
<p><b>WEST INDIES BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE</b> JUNE 14 - 18TH Stay tuned for more updates of this virtual conference www.wibf.org</p>	<p><b>WEST INDIES BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE JUNE 14th-18th VIA ZOOM</b> The West Indies Baptist Fellowship Conference will be featuring our very own <b>Pastor Paul Cannings. Join via zoom everyday at 7:15 a.m. CST</b> Zoom Meeting ID: 823 9827 9798</p>

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.  
**Ages 2—6th grade**



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Announcements
- Communion
- Visitor's Welcome
- Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

**"Do You Believe?"**

Mark 9:14-29  
Dr. Paul Cannings

Full sermon notes available online at [www.lwfellowshipchurch.org](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org)

Click on the "Media" tab and click "Sermon Outline"

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction

**LEGACY** EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

**MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL**  
**2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
SUNDAY 6:30 PM

# SERMON OUTLINE

## Do You Believe? Mark 9:14-29

### A. The Battle (vs. 14-19):

1. Jesus's coming from the Mt. of Transfiguration did not come to the crowds; He came with His mind set on serving the needs of the disciples.
2. Christ had provided the disciples with the power to remove demons (Mark 6:7-13) and they were faithful in getting that done.
3. Christ already fully understood what was taking place when He began to experience the crowd.
4. The scribes were critically and forcefully disputing this issue with the disciples.
5. The crowd clearly and fully recognized who Christ was.
6. The people were astounded that Christ was actually there.
7. Christ demanded that the disciples explain what was going on.
8. Christ wanted to know why such forceful differences of opinions were there being disputed.
9. The person with the greatest need always speaks loudest. The father of this afflicted boy was going to persist until he found help.
10. The father took the initiative and moved his son in Christ direction. He brought his son to Christ because he expected Christ to resolve the issue.
11. This man knew who Christ was and was convinced that Christ was the answer to his persistent violent problem he has been dealing with for year.
12. Whenever the demon decides to enter the boy, he takes full control of the boys body.
13. The man expresses his disappointment by telling Jesus that he spoke to Christ's followers (since he was bringing the boy to Christ, and He was not there) and they could not forcefully expel this evil spirit from inside his son.
14. Christ repeatedly kept rebuking the unbelief demonstrated by everyone including His disciples.
15. Everyone knew of Jesus's reputation because they were amazed when they saw him. They knew of the phenomenal miracles He had done but they still lacked the confidence (arguing among themselves; vs. 14) that Christ can heal the boy.
16. Our lack of faith has a day of accountability. Christ is only going to delay punishment so long before He brings us into His courts for reckoning.
17. Christ did not take the boy from his father. Christ challenged the father, who was looking for Him, and now recognized He is there, to obey His command, submit to His will.

### B. The Inner Struggle (vs. 20-27):

1. They, not just the father, obeyed Christ command and once and for all moved the boy to where Christ was standing.
2. Christ saw the father as he talked with him (vs. 17) and the disciples (vs. 14) but apparently, He did not see the boy.
3. As soon as the demon recognized that Christ was in full knowledge of what is taking place, the demon sought to take over. The demon knows he has lost, but he is not going to give up.
4. They may have brought the boy, but they are demanding answers from the father. This problem has been going on for years.
5. "If you can" is evidence that the father struggled with faith. He heard everything about Jesus, came to seek him out, but yet since no one else was able – "if you can." Despite all this Jesus never turned him away.
6. The question is "if you continuously have the power, ability, and resources of God, please heal my son."
7. When we bring all things before the Lord the Almighty divine powerful ability of the Lord God is always magnificent.
8. What makes things possible is when the person coming to Christ has a deep commitment to continuously trust in His promises when faced with the impossible issues before them. (James 1:6-8).

9. The boy's father demonstrates his level of desperation and distress when he continuously, boisterously and in a disorderly urgent fashion ask Christ to help his disbelief.
10. The man confesses that he continuously has kept a deep conviction and complete confidence in the ability of Christ.
11. His problem is directed towards lack a of confidence when he has the opportunity to trust Christ. This could be a statement about his life.
12. Jesus did not want the attention of a larger crowd.
13. Christ manifested His power when He functioned in a supernatural manner with a supernatural being commanding the demon to leave the boy.
14. The demon was boisterous and disorderly as it left the boy. The demon, even with Christ present did not plan to leave peacefully (vs. 20).
15. To take the boy by the hand means that Jesus now has full control and authority over the boy's life.
16. While the boy was still unconscious Jesus was pulling him up. He demonstrates that He is powerfully in control.
17. The boy once and for all rose up because of the power and authority of Christ, which means the demons power was overthrown.

### C. The Victory – Believe (vs. 28-29):

1. Christ and the disciples withdrew from the crowd to a place where they were alone.
2. The disciples were endlessly demanding for Christ to explain why they could not remove the demon when He gave them the power to do it (Mark 6:13).
3. They kept trying to find out why they could not forcefully expel the demon from the boy.
4. This particular kind of demon cannot be expelled the same way they did the other demons when Christ sent them out
5. Their dependence on God is always needed and it is vividly portrayed when circumstances expose the commitment to pray. The strength of God is exposed by our humble submission to our need for His power.

## PRAYER REQUEST

**Grieving:** Melinda Parsee & Family, Nikisha Doyle & Family, the Family of Debra Gaines, Wanda Ryan & Family, Curtis Sanders & Family, Sybil Grenion & Family, Pastor Duane Lawrence & Family, Doris Henderson & Family & Billy Mitchell & Family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bullcock, Sara-Beth Mathis, Barbara Gordon, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard & Sybel Ned's son, Johnathan.



# DO YOU BELIEVE?

MARK 9:14-29