
Mark 9: 14-37 Incomplete Faith but Jesus responds

Most believers and doubters alike share the discomfort of uncertainty.

We long to live with greater certainty: to know with a doubt that you've bet your life on the truth & that no surprises await you on the other side of eternity.
..... Plenty of those known for their deep faith, eg Billy Graham, Martin Luther & Mother Theresa, Isaac Watts, John Wesley, Horatius Bonar & John Stott wrestled with unanswerable & often painful questions.

Picture of the Flying Trapeze with Flyers and Catchers -

.. At its core, faith involves trusting in a person

& Faith is not what & how much you know; faith is not what you say you believe, **but is about what and who shapes you inside** - your attitudes & your priorities.

..... Faith involves looking to and trusting in a person

Those last months were a roller-coaster for disciples - & for us

Transfiguration: 3 disciples saw Jesus glorified & affirmed... then... back to earth with bump! The 9 disciples left behind couldn't heal the cruelly epileptic deaf-mute boy & his desperate Dad, a man with very limited faith – *Teacher, if you can.....*

Not much faith there! Although he saw compassion of Jesus but Jesus still responded to that glimmer of faith and helps it grow. *Jesus said, "If? There are no "ifs" among believers. Anything can happen No sooner were the words out of his mouth than the father cried, "Then I do believe. Help me with my doubts. "I do have faith but not enough. Help me to have more" & afterwards teaches His disciples. Only prayer can do the job—nothing else can! (29)*

....cf. John 15:5: *Apart from me, you can do nothing*

.....**The biggest miracle is that the Lord responds to our faltering, feeble, frail faith.**

.....**That is the grace of God we see in Jesus.**

v. 42 & when Jesus went on to speak his coming death & rising again, *they did not understand & were afraid to ask Him about it* - at least that desperate Dad was honest and open...& he and his son received grace & healing as a result

Then vv. 33-35 *"arguing amongst themselves who is the greatest"*

Our own fragile egos so often are desperate for recognition, praise & reassurance
...Ministers often face a tight-rope -walking on egg-shells as try to point out where changes need to be made, improvement where we could do it better, sans others taking offence, taking the humpff or feeling flattened.

Christ's Kingdom is a reversal of the world's attitudes & values – Mark 10:45

//el in Mt. 18:4- *"Whoever humbles themselves like this child will be the greatest in the kingdom of God"* vv. 36-37 *Took child, make him stand in front of them & put arms around & said to them, Whoever welcomes in my name one of these children, welcomes me & not only me but He who sent me." - A CHALLENGE*

PRAYER - "I do have faith but not enough. Help me to have more"