

Bring the Boy to Me

Mark 9:14-29

Into the Lesson:

There are number of references to "wonder" found throughout Scripture. Take some time to check out a few within their context:

Job 9:10-
Isaiah 29:14-
Daniel 4:3-
Joel 2:26-
John 4:48-
Acts 2:22-

To get a further sense of the idea of "wonder" do a Google search for the lyrics to "**Wonderful** Grace of Jesus" (#206 in Great Hymns of the Faith in my mind when I'm singing, I sing all the harmony parts...sounds pretty good).

Into the Word:

As you reread Mark 9:14-29 make note of the various "snapshots" that point to the "ups and downs" of this passage.

As you read the words of Jesus in vv. 16, 19, 21, 23 & 25, how can we see the Lord's "frustration is overshadowed by His compassion:?"

Are there "sigh worthy" moments as well as some frustration in His words?

How does Mark 9:3 provide an explanation for the "overwhelming wonder"?

How does Exodus 34:33-35 help you to understand what may have been happening?

What are some other explanations for what was happening?

The word translated wonder (ἐξεθαμβήθησαν) is only found in the New Testament in this passage, Mark 14:33 and Mark 16:5-6. How do these verses help us to understand the "up and down" nature of discipleship?

If verse 29 is true, it is, how do we explain that Jesus didn't appear to have prayed?

What are the implications for us as we are confronted by the ups and downs "as you experience your own discipleship journey"?

How does James 2:15-20 provide another benchmark in our guide to discipleship?

Into Life:

What are some of the indications that the church may have "...removed their dependance on Christ from the equation"?

How does Lane's caution "...obsession with horoscopes or Ouija boards or seances or tarot cards" fit with the "all roads lead to God" mindset of our culture?

What role does a state of continual, fervent prayer play in realizing the "overwhelming wonder" that will draw others to Jesus?

How does regular Bible study fit into the equation?

How important is something as simple as the greeting time to provide an opportunity to realize our dependence on Jesus?

How do we keep our "mountaintop experiences" in mind when we are trudging through the "muck" that is part of life in a fallen world?

"Because This is what Jesus does - He takes lives that are decimated and distorted and on their way to destruction - and He lifts them up and gives them back... Only Jesus can do that..."