**The Merciful and Miraculous Capacity of Christ**

Hope Chapel Honolulu

Mark 9:2-29

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. 28 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.”

(Mark 9:25-29, ESV)

**Introduction**

God the Father’s steadfast love and longsuffering patience find expression in and through Christ’s capacity for mercy, which seems to provoke Him to reveal the power, love, and faithfulness of heaven in humble, yet astounding ways. Why humble? Simply because Christ is more concerned with the restoration of healing, wholeness, and hope in the individual than with fame, fortune, or Facebook friends. Why astounding? Simply because once God the Son starts speaking, acting, and loving someone, everything becomes possible!

**1. Seeing the kingdom of God come with power. (Mark 9:2-7)**

 a) Six days after Christ’s promise, the Three see the kingdom of God come with power (Mark 9:1).

 b) The difference between divine utterance and divine incapacity in Peter’s life.

**2. Elijah, Moses, and the mystery of John the Baptist. (Mark 9:8-13; Revelation 11:1-13)**

 a) Christ continues to try to keep His identity a secret or at least keep His disciples from talking.

 b) The mysterious appearance of Elijah with Moses as they are talking with Jesus.

**3. The merciful and miraculous capacity of Jesus for those who believe. (Mark 9:14-29)**

 a) “All things are possible for one who believes” (Mark 9:23).

 b) “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer (with fasting)” (Mark 9:29).

**Conclusion**

While nothing is impossible for God, I often find myself in the place of that father we read of in Mark 9:14-29, who honestly and famously exclaimed, “Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief!” How many times and places have you found yourself where it seems that you do not have enough faith? How many times has a problem seemed bigger than a relationship? How many times has an obstacle seemed bigger than your faith? Maybe the problem is that we’re looking at things the wrong way? Maybe the solutions are not to be found in our faith as much as they are to be found in God’s power, love, and faithfulness?

**For our prayerful study, discussion, and application:**

1) Read Mark 9:2-7. What seems to be the single most important revelation in this passage and why?

2) Read Mark 9:14-29. What can we learn about power and authority in the kingdom of God here?

3) What are the Word and Spirit of God showing and telling you about the kingdom of God and its power?

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