

Living Water Fellowship

4TH SUNDAY IN LENT - 14TH MARCH 2021

COME TO JESUS

WELCOME:

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Father, through your Son you bring your children home to you. By the power of love & grace you reconcile this sinful creation & restore what the evil one has destroyed or distorted. Still the noise of this life so that at all times we respond in obedience & joy to your call & offer to others what we have received...In Jesus' name...Amen.

SONG: Only a Holy God

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Mark 9:14-32

FAITH CHAT:

SONG: Consider Christ

THE MESSAGE: *ADDITION BY SUBTRACTION: LESS NOISE MORE HEARING*

PRAYERS:

COMMUNION:

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: The Blessing Australia

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING: *(Name) † child of God,
Jesus is always the Truth. Amen.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: Rest My Soul

SHOW HIS LOVE

MARK 9:14-32

When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd surrounding them, & some teachers of religious law were arguing with them. ¹⁵When the crowd saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with awe, & they ran to greet him. ¹⁶“What is all this arguing about?” Jesus asked.

¹⁷One of the men in the crowd spoke up & said, “Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won’t let him talk. ¹⁸Whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. He foams at the mouth & grinds his teeth & becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn’t do it.”

¹⁹Jesus said to them, “You faithless people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.” ²⁰So they brought the boy. But when the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the child into a violent convulsion, & he fell to the ground, writhing & foaming at the mouth. ²¹“How long has this been happening?” Jesus asked the boy’s father. He replied, “Since he was a little boy. ²²The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us & help us, if you can.” ²³“What do you mean, ‘if I can’?” Jesus asked. “Anything is possible if a person believes.” ²⁴The father instantly cried out, “I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!” ²⁵When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil spirit. “Listen, you spirit that makes this boy unable to hear & speak,” he said. “I command you to come out of this child & never enter him again!”

²⁶Then the spirit screamed & threw the boy into another violent convulsion & left him. The boy appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd as people said, “He’s dead.”

²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand & helped him to his feet, & he stood up. ²⁸Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, “Why couldn’t we cast out that evil spirit?” ²⁹Jesus replied, “This kind can be cast out only by prayer.”

³⁰Leaving that region, they traveled through Galilee. Jesus didn’t want anyone to know he was there, ³¹for he wanted to spend more time with his disciples & teach them. He said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, but three days later he will rise from the dead.” ³²They didn’t understand what he was saying, however, & they were afraid to ask him what he meant.

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Mark 9:14-32. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you hear from God as you read it a few times silently reflecting on the scene?
2. Why were the “teachers of religious law” arguing with the disciples?
3. Notice how Jesus equates the Son of Man with the Suffering Servant (9:31; Isaiah 53). Why does Jesus warn the disciples about his impending death & resurrection? (9:31-32)
4. What was the problem with the boy? Why do you think Jesus expresses His frustration so strongly in vs 19? Why does the father ask if Jesus could “have mercy on us”—not only on the boy, but on the father as well?
5. Explain the father’s qualified trust in Jesus: ‘if you can.’ Talk through Jesus’ initial response vs 23. Why was the father afraid & doubting?
6. In what situations do you find yourself crying out to God to help your unbelief? What about these situations causes your faith to wane? How are you strengthened as a result of this admission of unbelief & Jesus’ immediate response to need?
7. Based on Mark 6:7-12, what would you have expected Jesus to find when he came down from the mountain? What is the issue here in your opinion? Why doesn’t the passage end with the casting out of the demon—why return to the question of the disciples’ inability and need for prayer? Do you believe that prayer & faith are actually that powerful? Why? Why not?
8. Why do you think Jesus expresses His frustration so strongly in vs 19? Why does the father ask if Jesus could “have mercy on us”—not only on the boy, but on the father as well? Explain the father’s qualified trust in Jesus: ‘if you can.’ Talk through Jesus’ initial response vs 23.
9. What do you make of the disciples’ question in vs 28, “Why couldn’t we...?”
10. Why do you think He kept pointing the disciples toward his death & resurrection? What is the significance of that event here? How is their receiving of this advance warning changing? What do you think that implies?