

3. Read Mark 9:42-48. What do you understand to be the main point of this hard teaching of Jesus?

4. If Jesus were to call you to suffer or be betrayed for Him, what role would fear and faith play in your response?

5. Read verse 50. What are the implications of this verse for you personally and for our church?

## Chapter Nine BELIEVING THE UNBELIEVABLE



### WHERE IS JESUS?

1. Jesus starts at Caesarea Philippi.
2. A mountain (possibly Mt. Horeb north of Caesarea Philippi).
3. Jesus and the three disciples return to Caesarea Philippi to join the others.
4. They all travel back to Capernaum.

**OVERVIEW:** In the last chapter, Jesus predicted His coming death for the first time. Those who heard

Him had a real tough time understanding what He meant. Peter even took Him aside to rebuke Him! Now, as we begin Chapter 9, Jesus makes another startling statement. He tells the disciples that some of them won't die until they see the Kingdom of God come in power. Six days later, Peter, James and John were eye witnesses to the Transfiguration. They literally saw the glory of the Kingdom as God spoke with Moses, Elijah and Jesus!

While this mountain top experience was going on for the three disciples with Jesus, the rest of the team was back down at sea level having a devil of a time with a demon-possessed boy. After Jesus returns to find the father's faith waning and the disciples growing frustrated, He makes another remarkable statement: *"Everything is possible for him who believes."* As soon as Jesus rebukes the evil spirit the boy is immediately set free. Then He tells the disciples again that the Son of Man must soon be betrayed and die.

You'd think the disciples would finally get the point that there is no limit to Jesus' power and that they should be humbly and obediently giving their whole lives to Him. But in the very next section, Mark tells us that they are walking along arguing about which one of them would be the greatest in the Kingdom of God! This is an amazing chapter that shows us just how hard it is to follow Jesus—and yet how simple. We must come to Him as a child and receive His gift of eternal life with a simple step of obedient faith.

10. What three qualities of a Christian are represented by salt?

**FOR YOUR GROUP STUDY:**

1. What observations have you made in your study of Mark this week?
2. If you had been on the mountain at the Transfiguration how do you think you would have reacted? How do you relate to the reaction of the disciples?

7. Read Mark 9:14-29. Why do you think the disciples failed to deliver the boy from the demon?

8. What did Jesus mean by His statement, "Everything is possible for him who believes"?

9. Why were the disciples afraid to tell Jesus that they didn't understand His prediction of His death?

**Read Mark 9:2.**

? "*Transfigured*" The word transfigured ***metemorphothe*** means "to be changed into another form." It refers to a change on the outside that comes from a change on the inside. The English word *metamorphosis* comes from this word. That word is used to describe the change a caterpillar makes inside the cocoon to become a butterfly.

**Read Mark 9:5.**

? "*Rabbi*" This is a term of respect used to refer to men who were acknowledged to be expert teachers who taught with religious authority.

**Read Mark 9:7.**

? "*Listen to Him.*" The word here literally means "be obedient to Him." This fulfills the prophecy in Deuteronomy 18:15.

**Read Mark 9:35.**

? "*Servant of all.*" The word for servant in the Greek is ***diakonos***, which describes someone who freely takes care of the needs of others. The English word "deacon" comes from this word.

**Read Mark 9:47.**

? "*Hell*" The word used here is the Greek equivalent of ***Gehenna***, which is actually two Hebrew words that mean "the Valley of Hinnon." Hinnon is an actual valley outside Jerusalem where King Ahaz worshipped the pagan god, Molech.

**FOR YOUR PERSONAL STUDY:**

1. In what ways have you seen the Kingdom of God in action on the earth?
2. What did Jesus mean when He said that some of His disciples would not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power?
3. Read Mark 8:38 and 9:1. How does the transfiguration relate to these two verses?
4. Why do you think Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus at the Transfiguration?
5. What did God say about Jesus on the mountain?
6. Why did Jesus give the disciples orders not to tell anyone what they had seen on the mountain?