

Opening Illustration – *It has often been said that the Christian life is a land of hills and valleys.*

David the psalmist wrote in **Psalm 23** – “*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake.*

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies,

You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Today we are in our **2nd** Sunday of our Sermon Series, ***Only Believe***, where last week we witnessed a man by the name of **Jairus** and how, when he comes to the **crossroads** of faith and unbelief, **Jesus** says simply 2 words, “***Only Believe***”.

Join me in **Mark 9** where we see **Jesus** has His hills and valleys too.

We see that same inner core of disciples, Peter, James, and John, being invited to see the transformed **Jesus Christ**.

- It that is not WOW enough, they also get to see **Elijah and Moses** too.

Then the **4** come down the mountain top and that is where we pick up our text for today.

Read **Mark 9:14-16**

- Get the scene here, **Jesus** can hear the arguing before He gets to His disciples and who is the argument between, **9 disciples** of **Jesus** and the scribes.
- “*I you are truly His disciples and He is who you claim Him to be why can’t you cast out the demon from this boy?*”
- The word that describes the reaction of the crowd to the appearance of **Jesus** is, “**amazed**”.
 - His appearance was **sudden** and **unexpected**.
 - **I John 2:28**.
 - **Confidence** / **Ashamed**.

Read **Mark 9:17-19**

- Now we have to ask the question, **did the disciples have the authority** to cast this demon out of this son?
- **Mark 6:7.**
- “**unbelieving generation**” – how long will you continue **to not use the resources** that I have given you.
- Commentator – William MacDonald – “*How long would Jesus have to put up **with lives of powerlessness and defeat.***”

Read **Mark 9:20-21**

- “**Love is an act of faith, and whoever is of little faith is also of little love.**”
 - ***But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*** – I Corinthians 13:13
- When the boy comes to Jesus **the spirit leaves and the boy is fine.**
- No, **satan will not give up easy, ground he has will be hard fought for, and he will leave kicking and screaming,** but he still has to leave.
 - **Illustration of someone in bondage and the battle they will face.**

Read **Mark 9:22**

- **What was the desire** of the demon, **to destroy the boy.**
- **John 10:10.**
- Here comes the challenge to Jesus, “***if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.***”
- **Jesus does not want to show you pity** (feeling sorry for someone / without the ability to help) **rather Jesus wants us to walk in victory!**

Now here is the crossroad of faith for the father and son.

Read **Mark 9:23-27**

- In verses 23-24 we see a conversation between Jesus and the father.
 - “***All things are possible to him who believes.***”
 - **Do you really believe that this morning?**
 - **Jesus calls the father out, what will he do?**
 - **Note the father does not say heal my son, he says help my unbelief!**
 - **Faith in the living God is always rewarded.**
 - **Matthew 17:20** – “***the littleness of your faith***”.
 - ***Brethren, be great believers. Little faith will bring your souls to heaven, but great faith will bring heaven to your souls.***” — Charles H. Spurgeon (1834-1892).