

**The Power of
Weak Faith
Mark 9:14-27**

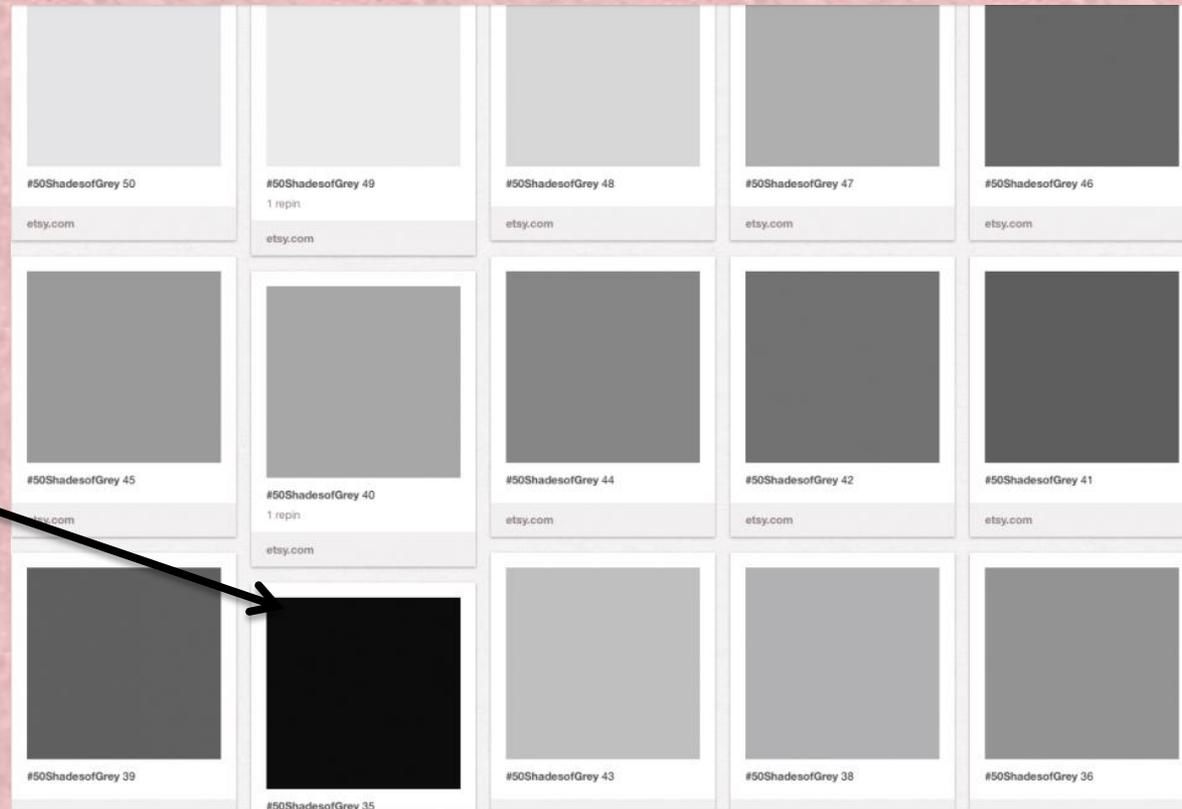
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TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE? BELIEVERS AND UNBELIEVERS?



BELIEVERS WITH DOUBTS...BELIEVERS WITH WEAK FAITH...BELIEVERS HANGING ON BY A FAITH THREAD

A SMALL
GLIMMER
OF HOPE
REMAINS



Mark 9:14-27

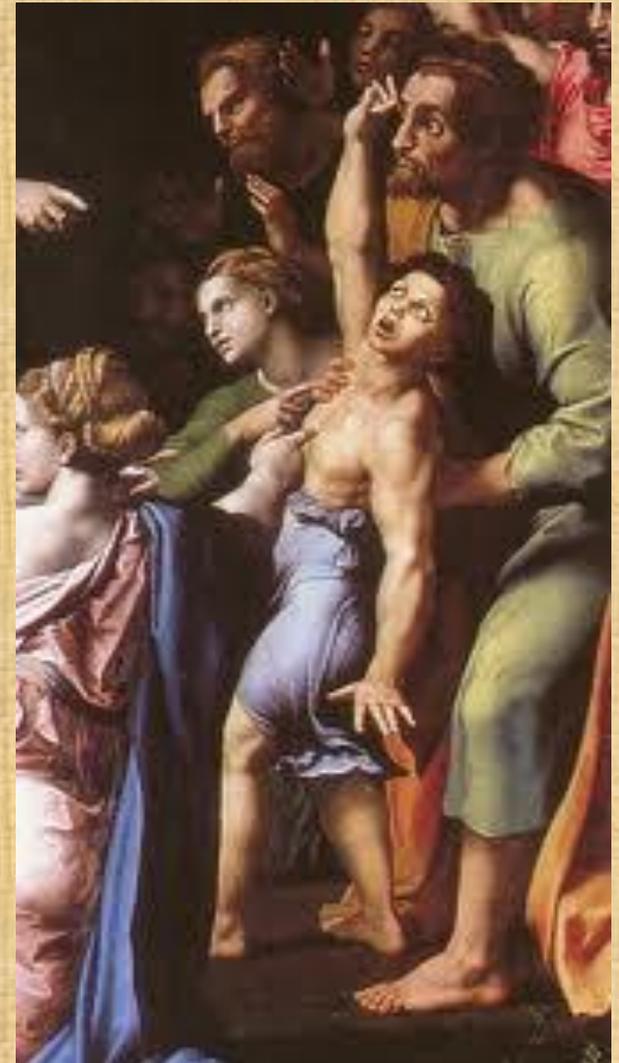
A SICK BOY AND HIS LOVING DAD

Not a Healing Service

- ¹⁴ And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them.
- ¹⁵ Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and **running to Him**, greeted Him.
- ¹⁶ And He asked the scribes, “What are you discussing with them?”

DAD'S CHUTZPA!

- **17** Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit.
- *(Matthew adds he fell on his knees and called Jesus Lord).*



DAD'S INCREDIBLE BURDEN

- ¹⁸ And wherever **it seizes** him, **it throws him down**; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid.



HOW MUCH DAD LOVED HIS SON

- IGNORES YEARS OF DISAPPOINTMENT
- TAKES HIS SON FROM THE SAFETY OF HIS HOME
- FACES EMBARRASSMENT & RIDICULE
- FACES HAZARDS OF THE JOURNEY
- FIGHTS A RUNNING CROWD
- FIGHTS HIS WAY TO THE FRONT
- FELL ON HIS KNEES
- HE'D DO ANYTHING FOR HIS BOY



DAD'S ALREADY BEEN DISAPPOINTED

- So I spoke to
Your disciples,
that they should
cast it out, but
they could not.”



What Dad Didn't Trust

- Dad didn't trust his own ability to heal his son. He lacked ability.
- He didn't trust the disciples to heal his son. They lacked ability.
- He didn't trust the medicine of the day. It was ineffective.

JESUS ISN'T PLEASED WITH THE DISCIPLES OR THE CROWD

- ¹⁹ He answered him and said, “O **faithless generation**, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you?”
- Bring him to Me.”

DAD'S WORST FEAR REALIZED

- **20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.**

DAD MUST HAVE THOUGHT IT WAS HIS FAULT

- ²¹ So He asked his father, “**How long has this been happening to him?**”
- And he said, “**From childhood.**”

Why, Lord?
Lord why?
WHY?



Dad Endured Years Of Sorrow

- With each day it must have seemed less and less likely that his Son would be healed.
- With each day his son only got worse.
- The Child couldn't talk: no thank you, no "uppie" no "I love you daddy" – Just silence all those years.

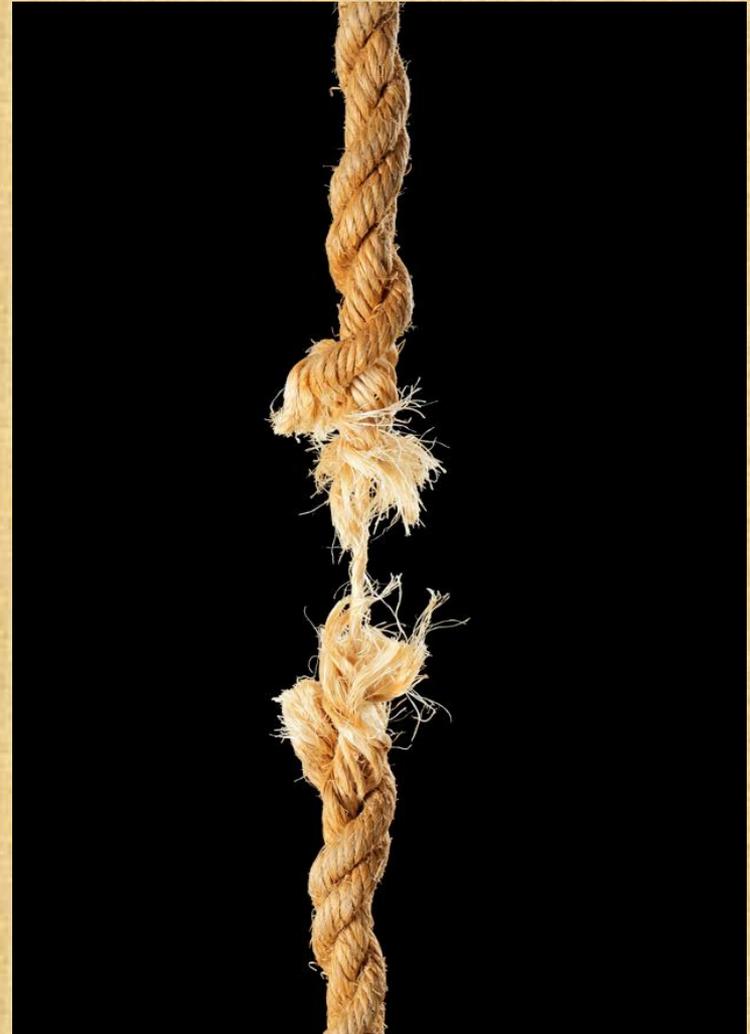
DAD TAKES A BIG RISK TO BRING HIS SON TO JESUS

- ²² And often he has *thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him.*



DAD'S THREADBARE FAITH

- But **if You can do anything,** have compassion on us and help us.”



DAD'S WEAK FAITH IS ENOUGH!

- ²³ Jesus said to him, “**If you can believe**, all things *are* possible to him who believes.”

Things Jesus Did Not Say

- NOTE: Jesus did not say,
 - “If your faith is strong enough, anything is possible.”
 - “If you have faith, you can do anything.”
 - “If you don’t have faith, no miracles for you.”
 - “If you get no miracle, it’s your fault because you lacked sufficient faith.”

DAD'S DAM BURST

He puts his unbelief in Jesus' Hands

- ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child **cried** out and said with **tears,**
- “Lord, I believe;
- help my unbelief!”

Things Dad Did Not Say

- **NOTE: Dad did not say,**
- **“Lord. I believe, help thou my son.”**
- **“Lord, I believe, mostly, but I have a few questions.”**

Dad Did Not Believe “in the power of prayer” or “in miracles” but in the Person, Jesus

- He Understood that Jesus was Lord-**able** to heal.
- He Understood that Jesus was Savior – **willing** to heal.
- Result: he placed all his trust in Jesus who was and is able and willing to heal.

Jesus Heals the Boy—Anticlimax?

- ²⁵ When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!” ²⁶ Then *the spirit* cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

I'm still waiting to be healed

- I have Young Onset Parkinson's Disease
- Incurable
- Degenerative
- Progressive
- Ultimately fatal.

The Parkinsons' Timeline

- Diagnosed in 1999 at 38 years old.
- Attorney, at “peak of my career”
- Have three children, all young at the time

My Struggles

- Why me?
- Why not me?
- Why not that other guy?

January 2000

Prodigal Son Returns Home

Rededicated my life to Christ upon hearing a sermon on the Prodigal Son and after my own 17 year prodigal period.

Even a Disease Can be a Gift

- God used my disease to bring me home.
- God used my disease to bring the Gospel to my family.
- God used my disease to enable to help others in pain and suffering.
- What greater calling can there be?

I, no doubt, have doubts

- **My faith is weak sometimes and strong sometimes.**
- **My faith is strongest when I'm with God's people.**
- **I've learned to trust God, not the "power of prayer" but the one we're praying to.**

Charles Spurgeon

- *Learn from this that a measure of doubt is consistent with saving faith; that weak faith is true faith, and a trembling faith will save the soul.*

