

Mark 8-9:1 *Yeshua & Kephas have a moment.* Jesus feeds another crowd, 4,000 this time because He said I have compassion for them; they'll collapse on the way home. Again the disciples didn't get it. He takes the boat to the western shore, only to be greeted by more of the religious right, this time asking for a "sign."

Jesus questioned their motives, and made quite clear—no sign will be given; He then got into the boat and crossed to the other side (back to the freedom of unbelievers). The disciples forgot to bring bread, except for one loaf. Jesus used their mistake to teach that the Pharisees and Herod were a source of contaminating yeast.

Kvetching they had no bread, Jesus was amazed—you're still talking about having no bread!!? He reminded them of the 5,000 and the 4,000 being fed, and all the leftovers. And, then He asked rhetorically, "Do you still not understand?"

When they got to Bethsaida⁷ where a blind man was brought to Yeshua; the people who brought him begged Yeshua to touch him. He took him by the hand, spit on the man's eyes and putting His hands on the blind man, asked—Do you see anything? I see people, like trees walking around. Again, Jesus put His hands on the man's eyes—his sight was restored; everything was clear. Jesus sent him home, telling him to avoid going into the village.

In the villages around Caesarea Philippi, Yeshua asked them—Who do people say I am? Some say John the Immerser, others Elijah, and some others, one of the prophets. But what about you? Who do you [plural] say that I am? Peter answered, You are the Messiah. Jesus warned them to keep it to themselves.

Then, Jesus & Peter had a moment—Jesus called Peter, "Satan." You see, Jesus was describing what was going to happen during His trial, death and resurrection. Peter was not happy and took the Lord of the Universe aside and began to rebuke Him. Peter was not the sharpest knife in the drawer. Peter was too wrapped up in what people thought, not the Lord Our God.

Then it got even more serious—*If you follow Me, you must deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Me. If you want to save your soul, you must lose your life, for Me, and the good news will save your soul. If you're ashamed of Me and My words in this sin-crazed generation, I will be ashamed of you when I come into My Father God's glory with all the angels.*

As they watched & learned, Jesus added even more drama to the moment—*I tell you truthfully—some of you, standing right here, will not die before they see the Kingdom of God come, with power.*

⁷*Bethsaida.* On the northeast shore of the Sea of Galilee. Philip the tetrarch rebuilt Bethsaida and named it "Julias," after Julia, daughter of Caesar Augustus.

Mark 9:2-13 *Who's Greater?* Almost a week later, Yeshua took Kephas, James & John to a high mountain; they were there all alone. Then it happened—the appearance of Jesus changed dramatically. His clothes became white, dazzling white, whiter than Clorox could ever bleach [λευκᾶναι, 3021] them. Appearing before them was Elijah & Moses, who were talking with Yeshua.

Calling Jesus “Rabbi,” Peter becomes an architect—let’s build three shelters, one for each of you. (He was freaked; they were terrified [ἐκφοβοί, 1630]).

Father God was not happy. Enveloping the group in a cloud, a voice rang out—*This is My Son—who I love. Listen to Him!* Suddenly, when they looked around, no one was with them except Yeshua.

While they made their way down the mountain, Jesus told them not to tell anyone about this until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They did indeed keep it to themselves as they discussed what “rising from the dead” meant.

The discussion nonetheless continued, this time asking Jesus why do the professors of the Law say Elijah must come first? You’re here after all. You’re right, He replied. Elijah does come first and restores all things. But why is it also written that the Son of Man must suffer and be rejected. Here’s the truth—Elijah⁸ has come, and they have done what they wanted, just as it was written about Elijah & Ahab-Jezebel.

- Q Why were Jesus’ clothes made “whiter than any launderer on earth could make them?”
- Q How did the three boys know the two dudes talking with the Christ were Elijah & Moses? Is it disrespectful to call Elijah & Moses dudes here?
- Q Why did Father God make a vocal appearance here?
- Q What did John the Baptizer (Elijah’s restoration role) restore?
- Q Why were they confused about the meaning of “the Son of Man rising from the dead?”

⁸*Elijah has come.* A reference to John the Baptist (see Matthew 17:13). *they.* Herod and Herodias (see Mark 6:17-29). John, like Elijah, was opposed by a weak ruler and his wicked consort. *as it is written about him.* What Hebrew Scriptures say about Elijah in his relationship to Ahab and Jezebel (see 1Kings 19:1-10). There is no prediction of suffering associated with Elijah’s ministry in the end times. What happened to Elijah under the threats of Jezebel, however, foreshadowed what would happen to John the Baptizer. The order of events suggested in vv. 11-13 is as follows: (1) Elijah ministered in the days of wicked Jezebel; (2) Elijah was a type of John the Baptizer, who in turn suffered at the hands of Herodias; (3) the Son of Man suffered and was rejected a short time after John was beheaded. (Excerpted from, and corrected by D. Thomas Porter, Ph.D., from *Compton’s Interactive Bible NIV*, © 1994)

MARK 9:2-13

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

⁵Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶(He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) ⁷Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”

⁸Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. ¹⁰They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what “rising from the dead” meant.

¹¹And they asked him, “Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?”

¹²Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected? ¹³But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him.

Mark 9:14-29 *Who Can & Can Not Cure Epilepsy.* When the four returned to the rest of the group, a large crowd was gathered and professors of the Law were arguing up a storm. But when they noticed Yeshua, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet Him. *What are you arguing about?* Jesus asked. One guy from the crowd answered...

Teacher (not "rabbi"), I've brought my son who is possessed by a spirit—he is thrown to the ground, foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your followers to heal him, but they could not do so.

Jesus called them out—You are such an unbelieving generation of knuckleheads. How long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put with all this? Bring the boy to Me.

As they brought the boy to the Christ, the spirit immediately perceived His presence and threw the boy into a convulsion. The boy fell to the ground, rolling around, foaming at the mouth.

Jesus asked the boy's father—How long has he been like this? From childhood, he answered; he's fallen into fire or water. If you can do anything, please take pity and help us.

"If you can?" Jesus linguistically inquired—Everything is possible for He who believes. The father exclaimed, I do believe—help me overcome my unbelief!

When Jesus noticed the crowd running to the scene, He commanded the unclean spirit to come out and never enter the boy again. Upon leaving, the boy was convulsed violently. He looked so much like a corpse that some thought him to be dead. BUT, the Creator of the Universe took the boy by the hand, lifted him to his feet, and the boy stood up.

Once indoors, the disciples asked Yeshua privately—*Why couldn't we drive out the unclean spirit?* Yeshua made it quite clear—*This kind of spirit can come out only by prayer and fasting.*

MARK 9:14-29

When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. 15As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

16"What are you arguing with them about?" he asked.

17A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. 18Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

19"O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

20So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

21Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"

"From childhood," he answered. 22"It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

23" `If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."

24Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

25When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

26The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." 27But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

28After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

29He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer." [some mss read *and fasting*]

- Q Why did Jesus ask the father the length of the boy's affliction? He was deity, omniscient deity, was He not?
- Q What was the arguing about? [Understanding this is key to whole passage.]
- Q Who is the unbelieving generation of which the Christ spoke?
- Q Why was Jesus the Christ angry, to the point of kvetching about His stay on earth, even threatening to leave?
- Q Why did this situation require "prayer and fasting?" Or, was Jesus reminding them that they had failed to pray and fast before healing by the authority of the Lord Our God?
- Q How does the Lord Our God help us with our unbelief? What does it mean if He does not?

Mark 9:30-50 *Humility Comes First.* Leaving the foot of the mountain of transfiguration, Jesus took a stealth trip to Galilee because He was teaching His students...

1. The Son of Man will be betrayed.
2. He will be killed.
3. After three days, He will rise.

They were clueless and were too cowardly to ask Jesus about what He meant.

Apparently lots of discussion had ensued on the road back to Capernaum. Continuing His didactics, Jesus asked them about what they were arguing. Cowardice again prevailed—this time because they had been arguing about who was the greatest among them.

Sitting down as teacher, he called the twelve and taught...

1. If you want to be first, you must be last, the servant of us all.
2. With a little child standing among them who He took into His arms...Whoever welcomes a child in My Name, welcomes Me.
3. Whoever welcomes Me, welcomes not Me, but the One who sent Me.

They interrupted—we saw a dude driving out unclean spirits in Your name, but he was not one of us. We tried to stop him.

You did what?!! No one who does a miracle in My name can say anything bad about Me in that moment, Jesus responded, and then continued...

4. Whoever is not against us, is for us.
5. Anyone who gives you a cup of water in My name because you belong to the Christ, will not lose his reward.

MARK 9:30-50

They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." ³²But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

³³They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" ³⁴But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

³⁵Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."

³⁶He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

³⁸"Teacher," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us."

³⁹"Do not stop him," Jesus said. "No one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, ⁴⁰for whoever is not against us is for us.

⁴¹I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward.

⁴²"And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck.

⁴³If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell.

⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where " 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.' [Isaiah 66:24]

⁴⁹Everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other."

6. Referring back to the child in His arms... If anyone causes one of these little ones who believes in Me to sin, it would be better that he be cast into the sea with a rather heavy millstone around his neck. Don't mess with my babies.
7. If there are elements in your life causing you to sin, ask why they're still there...
 - a. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. Do life with one hand rather than enter hell with two.
 - b. If your foot causes you to sin [σκανδαλίζη, "causes you to stumble," 4624], cut it off. Do life with a limp rather than enter hell gracefully.
 - c. If your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Do life myopically rather than enter hell with 20-20 vision.
 - d. If your computer has porn on it, kick it to the curb. Do life with a calculator and memo pad rather than enter hell proficient in Windows 43.
8. Hell has worms, worms which continually, eternally eat at you, making you wonder why didn't I listen! I could have lived life quite well without that hand, foot, eye, iPhone and/or computer.
9. Everyone will be assaulted with the fires of life. Become salt.
10. Salt comes from being assaulted, but if you lose your saltiness how can you become useful again. Get the salt from within—make peace [εἰρηνεύετε] with each other.

Q What have you been too cowardly to ask of the Lord Our God?

Q Who is not against us, yet for us?

Q Which child deserves to be protected from the sinful adults around them?

Q What element in your life needs to be kicked to the curb? Game of Thrones, HBO, and your cable-bill.

Q To what extent was the Lord Our God speaking literally about hands, feet, and eyes?

Q Who provides the salt from within ourselves? Precise answer please.