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## REALITIES OF LIFE IN THE VALLEY

Mark 9 v 14 - 50

September 8<sup>th</sup> 2013  
Chris Reveley



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## Outline

- Introduction
- Pivotal point in Mark's account of the life of Jesus
- Three points of dispute about authority and power
  - Who has the power to cast out this evil spirit?
  - Which of the disciples was the 'greatest'?
  - Who can exercise power in the name of Jesus?
- How much faith and how much prayer?

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## Pivotal point in Mark's account of Jesus

- From the mountain-top to the valley
- The second of three times Jesus explains what is going to happen to him
  - "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." (9 v 31)
  - Also 8 v31 and 10 v 33-34
- The end of Jesus ministry in Galilee – from 10 v1 they move to Judea in the south on the way to Jerusalem.

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**Who has the power to cast out this evil spirit?** (Mark 9 v 14-29)

- Arguing as to why the disciples couldn't deliver the boy
- Most illnesses are not demonic and Jesus ministry demonstrates this
  - Mark 7 v 32-35 - healing a man who is deaf and mute
  - Mark 9 v 25-27 - casting out a deaf and mute spirit
- Jesus casts out the evil spirit and delivers and heals the boy
- Why had there been a problem?

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**Which of the disciples was the 'greatest'?** (Mark 9 v 30-37)

- They clearly still didn't understand!
- Was it Peter, James & John arguing with the others...?
- "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last and the servant of all"
  - Reversal of human thinking
  - Servant spirit – look to the interests of others (Phil 2 v4)
- Many of us serve in the church
  - Be careful that we serve and we don't 'own'
  - Be careful how we speak with each other, especially when we don't like the way something is being done
  - Whoever causes this little one to .....sin, fall, be discouraged etc....

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**Who can exercise power in the name of Jesus?** (Mark 9 v 38-41)

- Must have already argued with this man driving out demons in the name of Jesus
- Disciples thought they had a 'monopoly' on Jesus' power
- No 'neutrality' when it comes Jesus attack on evil
  - Opposite statement in Matt 12 v30 & Luke 11 v 23 (Luke 16 v13)
  - Seven sons of Sceva (Acts 19 v13-16)
- 'Not one of us' ?

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### Power in the Name

- "in my name"
- Mark 9 v38-41
- Luke 24 v47;
- John 14 v13;
- John 20 v31;
- Acts 3 v16;
- Phil 2 v9-11

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### How much prayer and how much faith?

- Are we an unbelieving generation?
- Everything is possible for him who believes
- I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!

1. Let us not take God's power for granted
2. Let us not stop God working through our unbelief
3. Let us not stop God working through our lack of prayer
4. It isn't how much faith you have that matters but who you have your faith in.

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