

## A Study of Mark - Lesson 27

### Mark 9:14-32 The Healing of a Boy With an Impure Spirit

9<sup>14</sup> When they came to the other disciples, / they saw a large crowd around them / and the teachers of the law arguing with them. /<sup>15</sup> As soon as all the people saw Jesus, / they were overwhelmed with wonder / and ran to greet him.

<sup>16</sup> “What are you arguing with them about?” / he asked.

<sup>17</sup> A man in the crowd answered, / “Teacher, / I brought you my son, / who is possessed by a spirit / that has robbed him of speech. /

<sup>18</sup> Whenever 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.”

<sup>19</sup> “You unbelieving generation, / “ Jesus replied, / “how long shall I stay with you? / How long shall I put up with you? / Bring the boy to me.”

<sup>20</sup> So 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.



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

"From childhood," / he answered. / <sup>22</sup> "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."

<sup>23</sup> "If you can'?" / said Jesus. / "Everything is possible for one who believes."

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

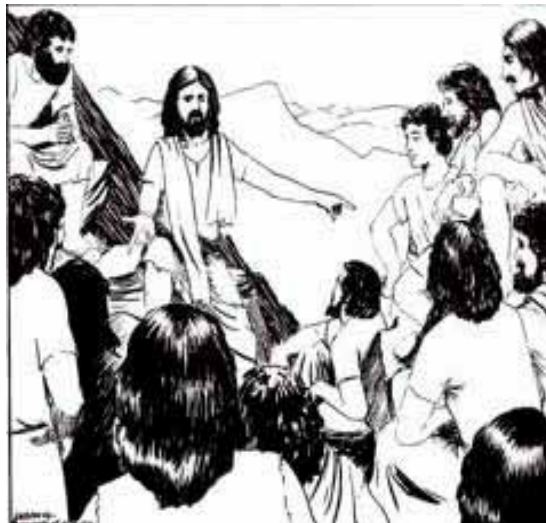
<sup>25</sup> When Jesus saw / that a crowd was running to the scene, / he rebuked the impure spirit. / "You deaf and mute spirit," / he said, / "I command you, / come out of him / and never enter him again."

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

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

<sup>29</sup> He replied, / "This kind / can come out / only by prayer."

<sup>30</sup> They left that place / and passed through Galilee. / Jesus did not want anyone / to know



where they were, / <sup>31</sup> because he was teaching his disciples. / He said to them, / “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.” / <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand / what he meant / and were afraid / to ask him about it.

## **Vocabulary**

1. **Overwhelmed:** (a) To defeat somebody completely because of superior numbers, strength, skill, etc. *to be overwhelmed by enemy forces*; (b) to cover somebody or something very quickly, *The skiers were overwhelmed by an avalanche. We don't want to overwhelm you with requests for information*; (c) to have a strong emotional effect on. *Forces of despair and loneliness overwhelmed me. I was overwhelmed by the kindness of the people.*
2. **Epilepsy:** a disease of the nervous system.
3. **Possessed:** owned, taken over
4. **Convulsion:** a seizure, a spasm
5. **To put up with someone or something:** to tolerate
6. **Foam:** bubbles, froth, and suds
7. **Shrieked:** screamed, yelled
8. **Corpse:** a dead body

## **Questions**

1. Jesus took three of his disciples to the mountaintop. Where were the others?
2. What is epilepsy? What did the father want to happen to his child?
3. Often we get less than we hoped for. How did the man ask Jesus to help?

4. Why was Jesus quietly walking through Galilee?
5. How long do you estimate it took the disciples and Jesus to walk so far?
6. What did Jesus tell his disciples about his death?

## **Notes**

1. As Jesus comes down the mountain, remember he is still in the territory of Philip, not of Herod Antipas. Verse 30 says they left “that place” and began walking toward Galilee.
2. Jesus begins his return journey to Jerusalem and his death. He needs “walking” and teaching time to prepare the disciples to carry on after his death.
3. The disciples could not heal the boy with epilepsy. They had gone out before and healed with power. Jesus tells them they must stay in prayer with God. Only God can heal. It is important to stay in prayer as life moves on.
4. Jesus comes into a tense situation. The discussion was about the healing of the boy. Jesus tells the disciples “all things are possible to him who believes.” The father had doubts. He then asked that Jesus help his unbelief. We should not despair even of difficult tasks.
5. Remember they are in Gentile lands. It is probable that the boy was a Gentile, rather than a Jew. It seems that Jesus took the father and son aside, for the crowd began running toward them.
6. Epilepsy is a common neurological disorder. There are many types but they have seizures in common.
7. Jesus goes into Galilee, but kept walking so as not to attract crowds. Here again he is explaining his coming death. Before long, they will reach Capernaum and Jesus will deal again with the disciples’ ideas of the Messiah.