



## Mark 9:2-29 - Kingdom Conquering Week 9: 2 October 2011

### Getting to know you:

1. If you could be the best at just one thing what would it be?

### Into the Bible

1. The message is on "Kingdom Conquering". What do you understand by this statement?
  - How is this linked to the Person of Christ as King?
  - What is our part in responding to the Kingship of Jesus and His invitation to be His followers? (Mark 8:34).
2. What is the significance of the Transfiguration? (Mark 9:2-8)
  - Who was present that day?
  - How did Peter later describe his experience ? (2 Peter 1:15-18).
  - What did Peter mean when he referred to us having something "more certain"? (2 Peter 1:19-21).
  - What did the presence of Moses and Elijah confirm about the Old Testament Scriptures?
3. Why did Jesus tell His disciples not to publicise what they saw? (Mark 9:9-10; compare Mark 8:30).
  - Do you think their understanding of Jesus and His plain statements that He would suffer and die was any clearer after the Transfiguration?
  - How did Jesus further enlighten His disciples in verses 11-13?

4. The Healing of the Boy with a demonic spirit (Mark 9:14-29). Why did the disciples fail to heal the boy when Jesus had given them authority over unclean spirits? (see Mark 3:15; 6:7).
  - What was Peter's reaction?
  
5. Who do you think had a lack of faith – the disciples or the father of the boy? (Mark 9:19, 24)
  - How do you explain this "lack of faith"?
  
  - Does it mean that having faith always results in healing?
  
  - What are the dangers of this view? (Compare 1 John 5:14-15).

## Application

1. Do you resonate with Jim Elliot's conviction that "he is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose?"
  - What does Mark 8:35 say?
  
  - What does Philippians 3:7-11 say?
  
2. How would you rate your faith? Can you relate to this boy's father in Mark 9:24?
  - What do you suppose is the relationship (if any) between faith and fear?
  
  - Have you asked Jesus for help to overcome any of your fears?
  
3. Does being Christ's disciple feel like a "chore" to you or can it be pure delight?
  - What do you think will make the difference??

## Going Beyond

Discuss as a group Jesus' statements regarding denying yourself and taking up your cross found in Mark 8:34-38, with the reality of what Jesus promises in Mark 9:1 and the subsequent experiences in the rest of the chapter. Look up verses on faith. What does Hebrews 11 say about faith and what examples can we find there? Read and discuss together Hebrews 11:13-16 and 32-40.

If you'd like to know more about Jim Elliot please read *Through Gates of Splendor* by Elisabeth Elliot (Jim's wife) and watch the movie: *The End of the Spear*. Both will challenge and bless you!