Crossroads International Church Matthew Lyle

Series: Mark: Compassion Unveiled 2025-06-15

**Who are We?**

***Mark 9:14-37***

**Problem:** After Peter’s Confession and Jesus’ Transfiguration,

the disciples struggle with doubt, confusion, and selfish desire

 revealing their **immaturity** and **faithlessness** despite divine revelation.

* “**Immaturity**" highlights their spiritual underdevelopment:

*They’re sincere but slow to understand,*

 revealing**a lack of growth**

* "**Faithlessness**" points to their active failure to trust,

 *Especially in the face of Jesus’ power and promises,*

revealing **a lack of trust**

**Subject**: What is the disciples response to the Confessions and Revelation?

**Complement**: Despite witnessing Christ’s identity and glory, the disciples respond with doubt, disorientation, and selfish desire—revealing their immaturity and faithlessness.

**Our Goal**: We will be moved to reject spiritual immaturity and pursue deeper faith and humility in response to Christ’s revealed glory.

**Disciples' Doubt** (Mark 9:14–29)

The disciples fail to cast out a demon because of their lack of faith and dependence on God. Jesus calls them to a deeper trust that expresses itself through prayerful reliance on His power.

**Disciples' Confusion** (Mark 9:30–32)

As Jesus predicts His death and resurrection again, the disciples remain confused and fearful. Their inability to grasp His mission reveals their spiritual misunderstanding and reluctance to face the cost of discipleship.

**Disciples' Desire** (Mark 9:33–37)

The disciples argue over who is the greatest. Jesus redefines true greatness as humble service and childlike dependence, calling His followers to embrace a posture of lowliness and care for the least.

**PRINCIPLES**

1. **Divine revelation doesn’t eliminate our struggles but exposes them**. Even after seeing Jesus glorified, the disciples still doubted and misunderstood.

2. **True faith requires dependence, not self-reliance.** The disciples’ failure to cast out the demon reveals that spiritual power comes through prayer and dependence on God, not technique or past experience.

3. **The way of Jesus is the way of the cross.** Jesus again predicts His suffering and death, showing that following Him means embracing sacrifice, not worldly status.

4. **Humility is the posture of true greatness.** While the disciples argued about greatness, Jesus taught that true greatness is found in serving others and welcoming the least.

**APPLICATIONS**

1. **Acknowledge the gap between knowledge and maturity.** Knowing who Jesus is does not automatically make us mature — we must submit daily to His work in our hearts.

2. **Cultivate prayerful dependence.** Like the disciples, we often fail because we try to serve or lead without prayer. Victory over spiritual challenges comes through ongoing dependence on God.

3. **Accept that following Jesus will cost us.** Like the disciples, we must come to terms with the reality that discipleship often means dying to self, comfort, and status for the sake of Christ.

4. **Embrace humility over ambition.** Instead of jockeying for position or recognition, seek opportunities to serve others quietly and sacrificially.

5. **Let divine revelation lead to transformation**. The more we see Jesus clearly, the more we should be transformed into His likeness—growing in trust, humility, and love.