

Sermon Notes – March 1, 2015
“I Believe – Help My Unbelief!”
Mark 9:14-32
Pastor Bill Hoffman

Context: Note the events and interactions between Jesus and his disciples in Mark 8:27-9:13. Note also Mark 9:30-32, the second time Mark records Jesus telling his disciples about his impending death and resurrection, and the disciples’ response.

Previously Jesus had commissioned his disciples to minister healing to people and drive out demons – and they did so (see Mark 6:7-13).

- How do you account for their inability to drive out the demon in this case?
- What does Jesus himself say (verse 29)?

The father of the demon possessed boy: how would you characterize his level of faith?

- Unbelief?
- Desperation?
- When have you felt like him?

When it comes to trusting Jesus, what are some reasons for doubts/unbelief?

- To which ones are you particularly prone?

Important steps in overcoming doubts/unbelief:

- Being honest with yourself and the Lord about your doubts.
- Recognizing that the Christian faith is rooted in a history and tradition that is bigger than you and your measure of faith and doubt.
- Focusing not on yourself and your doubts, but on Jesus as the object of your faith.

Good news to ponder from this incident: Jesus doesn’t require that this father overcome all his doubts, purify his heart and life, and surrender to Jesus completely in order to help him. What Jesus responds to is the man’s admission that he is not faithful and needs help.