### Mark

## Chapter 9

1Then he went on to say this to them:  
  
 ‘I tell you the truth; some of you who are standing here won’t taste death before you see the Kingdom of God coming in power.’  
  
2And just six days later, Jesus took just Peter, James, and John along to a private spot on a high mountain, where he changed form in front of them! 3His clothes started to glow much whiter than anyone on earth who washes and bleaches clothes could whiten them… 4And then EliJah and Moses appeared, and started talking to Jesus!  
  
5Well in reaction, Peter said to Jesus:  
  
 ‘Rabbi, it’s good for us to be here. So, let us erect three temporary structures… One for you, one for Moses, and one for EliJah.’  
  
6However, he really didn’t know what he was saying, because they were all so frightened.  
  
7Then right away, a cloud formed that covered them all, and a voice came from the cloud that said:  
  
 ‘This is My Beloved Son; listen to him!’  
  
8And when they looked around, they suddenly saw just Jesus standing by himself.  
  
9Well, as they were coming back down the mountain, [Jesus] ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Son of Man has been resurrected from the dead.  
  
10So, they took these words to heart.  
  
However, shortly afterwards, they started talking among themselves about what [Jesus meant] when he spoke of being resurrected from the dead.  
  
11Then later, they asked him:  
  
 ‘Why do the Scribes say that EliJah must come first?’  
  
12And [Jesus] replied:  
  
 ‘EliJah does indeed come first and he restores everything.  
  
 ‘But, why do you suppose it was written about the Son of Man that he will be tried, suffer greatly, and be treated as a no-account?  
  
 13‘I tell you this: EliJah has in fact already come and they did whatever they wanted to him, just as it was written about him.’  
  
  
  
14Then when they got back to the rest of the disciples, they found that a large crowd had gathered around them, and there were some Scribes that were arguing with them. 15But when the crowd saw [Jesus], they were all stunned and everyone ran up to him and started greeting him.  
  
16So he asked [the disciples]:  
  
 ‘What have you been arguing about?’  
  
17And someone in the crowd replied:  
  
 ‘Teacher, I was bringing my son to you, because he has a spirit that won’t allow him talk.  
  
 18‘Whenever it takes control of him, it throws him on the ground, he foams [at the mouth] and grinds his teeth, and then he just goes limp!  
  
 ‘I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they couldn’t do it.’  
  
19And Jesus said:  
  
 ‘O you faithless people! How much longer do I have to be with you? How much longer must I put up with you?  
  
 ‘Bring him to me!’  
  
20So they brought [the boy] to him, and at the sight [of Jesus], the spirit immediately threw [the child] into convulsions… He fell on the ground and rolled around, foaming [at the mouth].  
  
21Then [Jesus] asked the father:  
  
 ‘How long has this been happening to him?’  
  
And he replied:  
  
 ‘Ever since he was a child, 22it has thrown him into the fire and into the water repeatedly, trying to destroy him.  
  
 ‘So if you can do anything, [please] feel pity and help him!’  
  
23And Jesus replied:  
  
 ‘You said, If you can! Don’t you know that everything is possible for those who have faith?’  
  
24Then the father of the young boy immediately shouted:  
  
 ‘I do have faith… But help me to have more faith!’  
  
25Well at the time, Jesus could see that more people were running towards [them]; so he scolded the unclean spirit and said:  
  
 ‘I order you to come out of him, you spirit of speechlessness and deafness, and don’t go back into him anymore!’  
  
26Then, after shouting and going through several convulsions, [the spirit] came out. However, [the boy] then looked like he was dead. So most of the crowd started shouting:  
  
 ‘He’s dead!’  
  
27But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand.  
  
28Well after that, [Jesus] went back into the house, and his disciples went in with him. But they asked him in private why they couldn’t cast it out. 29And [Jesus] told them:  
  
 ‘This is the kind that will only come out through prayer.’  
  
30Then from there, they traveled on through Galilee, but [Jesus] didn’t want anyone to know [where they were going], 31because he wanted to spend what little time he had left teaching his disciples.  
  
And that’s when he went on to explain to them that he (the Son of Man) was going to be betrayed into the hands of men who would kill him… But after being dead for three days, he would stand again.  
  
32Nevertheless, they still couldn’t grasp the meaning of what he was saying, and they were all afraid to ask him any more questions.  
  
  
  
33Well, they finally got back to CapharNaum (which is where [Jesus was staying]).  
  
And when they got there, he asked them:  
  
 ‘What were you arguing about along the road?’  
  
34However, none of them wanted to answer, because they’d been arguing about which of them was the greatest. 35So he sat down and called the 12 over.  
  
Then he said this to them:  
  
 ‘Whoever wants to be first must be the last and the servant of the rest.’  
  
36Then he took a little boy and stood him in their midst, and he put his arms around him and said:  
  
 37‘Whoever welcomes anyone like this little boy in my name, also welcomes me. And anyone who welcomes me, is welcoming the One who sent me.’  
  
38[Then later], John said to him:  
  
 ‘Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he isn’t following us!’  
  
39But Jesus told him:  
  
 ‘Don’t try to stop him, because those who do powerful deeds in my name won’t be too quick to say bad things about me… 40For those who aren’t against us are for us.  
  
 41‘I tell you the truth: Anyone who gives you so much as a cup of water to drink because you’re walking in the name of the Anointed One… That person won’t lose his reward.  
  
 42‘But as for anyone who becomes a snare to one of these little believers… It would be better if the type of millstone that’s turned by a burro was hung around his neck and he was cast into the open sea!  
  
 43‘Therefore, if your hand traps you, cut it off! For it is better to enter life physically handicapped than to have both hands and go into the garbage dump… Into the fire that can’t be put out. 44Where the worm doesn’t die, and the fire isn’t quenched. [spurious, copied from verse 48]  
  
 45‘And if your foot is a trap to you, cut it off; for it’s better to enter life lame than to have both feet and end up in the garbage dump. 46Where the worm doesn’t die, and the fire isn’t quenched. [spurious, copied from verse 48]  
  
 47‘Also, if your eye is a trap to you, pluck it out and throw it away; for it is better to enter the Kingdom of God with one eye than to have both eyes and be thrown into the garbage dump...  
  
 48‘Where the worms won’t come to an end,  
 And the fire is never extinguished.’  
 [Isaiah 66:24]  
  
 49‘For you’ll all be salted with fire in the same way that a sacrifice is [offered with] salt. 50And although salt is good, if it loses its salty flavor, how can it be used for seasoning? So, you should each keep salt in yourselves by staying at peace with each other.’