

Jesus Is the God of Mountaintops and of Valleys

Luke 9:37-43a

Jesus desires you to know Him as “the God of both the mountaintops and valleys of life” (1 Kings 20:28). Have you ever made a judgment about a situation or someone else, only later to find out it was a snap judgment without knowing all the facts? Look at the words of Jesus “*You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you and put up with you?*” (v. 41). You’ll not understand these words until you read a parallel account of this story in **Mark 9:14-29**. “When Jesus, Peter, James and John came off the mountain, they saw a large crowd, and *some scribes arguing with the disciples*” (v.14).

(1). The **religious leaders** were arguing with the disciples in front of other people.

In essence, the scribes were losing control of their traditions and influence among the people. The inability of the disciples to cast out the demon was being used by the scribes to gain influence.

(a). The *unbelieving and perverted* generation were the *religious* people.

Unbelief has nothing to do with religion and everything to do with the power of Christ.

(b). The argument was one of religious power, control and influence over people.

The religious leaders weren’t helping the boy, they only wanted authority *over* people.

(2). The disciples were facing a hostile religious crowd in a dark environment of demonic oppression.

Don’t you love it how Peter, James and John go from a mountaintop experience with God to a dark valley of demonic oppression “on the next day” (v. 37). That’s a picture of the Christian life for us all.

I. Life’s mountaintop experiences are both memorable and momentary.

Peter, James, and John had been in the blessed company of Moses and Elijah. They had just seen God. Now they come to a valley of broken hearts with people in deep distress. Our walk with Jesus takes us takes us up the mountains and down into the valleys. He’s with us during light times and dark times.

II. Life’s valley experiences are both awful and amazing.

The description of this boy suffering is very descriptive and difficult to read. This boy is the man’s *only* son. He is often “seized by a spirit,” and will suddenly scream. “It” throws him into “convulsions” with “foaming at the mouth,” and “mauls the boy” before the demon finally departs and leaves him alone.

(A). There may be some experiences in your life just as terrifying.

There are no human, scientific, or logical explanations as to what is happening to you.

(B). There may be no encouragement or help coming from other Christians.

The disciples were just as perplexed about their inability to help: “Why could we not drive it out?” (Mark 9:28). Jesus answered them, “*This kind can’t come out by anything but prayer.*”

(C). It’s in the valleys that we are “amazed at the greatness of God.” (v. 43).

III. Instead of longing for the mountaintops, maybe we *should embrace* the valleys.

It’s in the valleys that we learn to pray and we learn to depend. It’s in the valleys that we meet God. If you need to learn *how to pray* in your present valley, learn from the boy’s father (Mk. 9:21-25).

(A) Be specific and detailed in your request.

Jesus asked “How long has this been happening to him?” Jesus never asked a question because He does not know something. He asks to bring us to a place of confession (“I need Your help”).

(B). Believe in Him and recognize your unbelief of Him.

Jesus said to the father, “*All things are possible to him who believes*” (Mk. 9:23). The man said, “I do believe (you can), help my unbelief (that you will).” God is always good; that requires faith.

(C). The greatest challenge in life is to believe that Christ is *all-powerful and always good*.