

“Jesus the Healer”

Mark 9:14-29

Series: Mark’s Gospel: “The Crown and The Cross”

March 4, 2018

Greg Cootsona

THE BIG IDEA

The Big Idea of this message is simple: Jesus works to bring healing, and thus fullness of life, to those who call on him. As John Calvin wrote in his commentary on the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, “So by setting men’s physical faculties free from the tyranny of the devil, He [Jesus] testified that He was sent by His Father to be the champion who would destroy his [Satan’s] spiritual tyranny over their souls.”

GETTING STARTED

1. What do the words “healing,” “redemption,” or “salvation” mean to you? Have you seen Jesus heal your life or someone else’s?
2. Read the Big Idea above. Does that summarize what you heard on Sunday? What else did you hear in Greg’s message? Was there something that left you with a question? Was there a part that particularly spoke to you?

LEARNING & LIVING OUT SCRIPTURE

Together, read Mark 9:14-29.

3. In verse 17, a “spirit” makes the boy unable to speak. It is the opposite of the Holy Spirit that gives the power to testify to the gospel (Mark 13:11). How do you understand this boy’s (as well as his father’s) experience? When have you felt God’s power to speak the right words? Or conversely, when has it seemed like you were unable to speak, but you wanted to or should have?
4. Biblical scholars Fred Craddock and Eugene Boring conclude this about verse 22: “That all things are possible is neither an abstract principle inherent in the scheme of things nor a matter of human faith or optimism, but a confession of faith in the Lord God Almighty (Rev. 19:6).” How do you respond to that insight? What happens when we remove God from a generally optimistic outlook?
5. Verse 26: “He is dead.” This solemn statement, and what follows, points to the God who gives us hope in resurrection from the dead beyond human ability. See also Mark 5:21-43 where Jesus raises Jairus’s daughter from the dead. Have you seen God raise life where it seemed like there was only death?
6. Jesus concludes by affirming that such healings only happen “by prayer” (v. 29), that is, in calling for God’s help. What do you think this means today? How can applying Jesus’s

words about prayer affect your life? What happens when you've called on God and you're still waiting to see God work?

LIVING OUT "REAL LIFE"

7. Let's return to the topic of healing and redemption. Where do you want God to work in your life or in those around you? Where are you tempted to say something is "dead," and where would you like God to bring new life? What can this small group do, and/or how can you support others in the group?

THE "EXTRA-MILE"

8. Commit to praying for the needs you just discussed. Have each member in the group check in with at least one other member to see how God works in the coming week.

SHARING & PRAYER REQUESTS

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES *(optional)*

Tim Keller, *Jesus the King*.