

Sunday, October 23, 2011—Mark Dispensationally Considered—Mark 9:14-29: How Does Satan Work During the Dispensation of Grace?

### **Mark 9:14-29**

- *And when he came to his disciples, he saw a great multitude about them, and the scribes questioning with them. 15) And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to him saluted him. 16) And he asked the scribes, What question ye with them? 17) And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; 18) And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. 19) He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me. 20) And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. 21) And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. 22) And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. 23) Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. 24) And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. 25) When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. 26) And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. 27) But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. 28) And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? 29) And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.*
- Mark 9:14-15—this is after Jesus returns with Peter, James, and John from the mount of transfiguration. Not only is Christ reunited with the rest of the Apostles but He is immediately confronted by a great multitude of people.
- Mark 9:16-18—Jesus asks the scribes within the multitude “What question ye with them?” A father from within the multitude tells Christ that his son is possessed with a dumb spirit that is causing him to act unnaturally. The disciples who were not with Christ on the mount of transfiguration were not able to cast out the evil spirit out of the boy. While Christ was in the mount revealing his glory, Satan was at work at the bottom of the mountain. The obvious comparison here would be to the conduct of the Children of Israel in the wilderness as Moses is on Mount Sinai receiving the Law.
  - Matthew 17:14-16
  - Luke 9:37-40
- Mark 9:19-24—Mark’s account of these events offers greater detail than either Matthew or Luke.

- Verse 19—all three record this statement regarding Christ frustration with the people and his request that the boy be brought unto him.
- Verse 20—as the demon possessed boy is brought the Christ the evil spirit sees Christ and tares (convulse) the boy causing him to fall on the ground wallowing and foaming at the mouth.
- Verse 21—Jesus asks how long the boy has been afflicted? The father answers since the boy was a child.
- Verse 22—the father tells Christ how bad his son’s affliction has been. The demon has tried to cast the boy into fire and water in an attempt to destroy him. The father again asks Christ to have compassion on him.
- Verse 23-24—Jesus tells the father that if he can believe all things are possible. Straightway or immediately the father said, “Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.”
- Verse 25-27—Jesus commands the dumb and deaf spirit to come out of the boy. In the process of leaving the spirit rent him so sore that it appeared the boy had died. Jesus took the boy by the hand stood him up, thereby proving the boy was not dead.
- Verse 28—the disciples privately ask Christ, why they could not cast out the evil spirit.
  - Matthew 10:5-8—they clearly had been given to the power to do so.
  - Mark 6:12-13—they clearly had already done so. Thus their question, “Why could not we cast him out?”
- Verse 29—according to Mark, this was a certain type of demon that can only come out through prayer and fasting.
  - Matthew 17:20—records the main reason they were not able to cast out the evil spirit. It was because of their unbelief.
- As we have seen throughout our study of Mark, we read about demon possession primarily in the Gospels and a little bit in the book of Acts. We have seen that Satan’s goal was to infest the nation of Israel with evil spirits as means of contending against Christ during his earthly ministry. This type of activity is the way Satan seeks to attack the body of Christ during the dispensation of Grace.
- I Corinthians 12:27-28—when Paul lists the gifts of the spirit given to the Body of Christ, exorcism is not one of them.

- I Corinthians 2:7-8—when God shocked the world by setting the nation of Israel aside, postponing the establishment of the Kingdom, revealing the mystery, and ushering a previous unpredicted dispensation Satan and his minions were taken aback.
- I Corinthians 12:13-14—Satan was forced to adjust his tactics. He could not attack the new formed spiritual entity of the Body of Christ in the same manner he attacked the physical nation of Israel.
- Ephesians 6:11—as believers we need to put on the whole armour of God so that we can stand against the wiles of the devil.
- Ephesians 6:12—we are still liked in a struggle with Satanic powers but the nature of our wrestling is not fleshly its against spiritual wickedness in high places.
- Ephesians 6:13-17—our orders are to hold the line, hold fast, standfast, not charge but not retried because the battle that is being fought today is being fought in the realm of the doctrine.
- Ephesians 4:14
- I Timothy 4:1-2, 6-7, 12-16
- Colossians 2:14-15—the revelation of mystery, made know all Christ had accomplished at the cross and thereby made a public showing throughout the universe that Satan and his cohorts where defeated. By keeping the mystery secret Satan willfully performed the act than resulted in his complete undoing.
- If you were Satan what would your attitude be toward the preaching of the cross? Would you want the world to constantly reminded of your own ineptitude? Well neither does Satan. How would silence the proclamation of that message? By directly attacking through the proclamation of false messages designed to obscure the truth of what God is not doing during the dispensation of Grace.
- Ephesians 3:8-11—when we stand for the preaching of Jesus Christ according to revelation of the mystery we put the heavenly beings on notice about the manifold wisdom of God that they could not figure out.
- Why is this church so small? Why are there no grace mega churches? Because Satan has attacked the Pauline Grace message with the same ferocity he used to attack Israel in time past. We need to stand out ground and hold the line. We need to continue to teach and preach the truth even when it seems no progress is being made. We need to scrap and fight for every convert knowing that we have been made active participants in the eternal purpose of almighty God.

- II Timothy 2:3—success in this struggle is going to require some hardness, some ability to press on when things seem hopeless. Our success ought not be measured only by how many new people come to see this message but by how many of us remain faithful to it.