

# No Faith, Weak Faith, & Little Faith



Mark 9:14-29



Mount Hermon from south

## I. No Faith (14-19)



- ☞ This man's only son (according to Luke)
- ☞ Controlled by and terrorized by a demon
  - ☞ 1) Made him unable to speak
  - ☞ 2) Made him deaf (25)
  - ☞ 3) Made him have epileptic type symptoms.

## II. Weak Faith (20-27)



- ☞ How demons usually responded to Jesus...
  - ☞ 1:23-24, 34; 5:6-7
- ☞ This was a particularly wicked demon.
  - ☞ 29 - "this kind"; i.e. this kind of demon.
  - ☞ Among the demons there are differing levels of evil...
    - ☞ Cf. Matt. 12:45 - "Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation."

## II. Weak Faith (20-27)



- ☞ **21b** - And he said, "From childhood.
  - ☞ Of a newborn
  - ☞ Of Jesus when He was eight days old
  - ☞ Of children younger than two
  - ☞ Of a 12 year old
  - ☞ So typically, of a child from birth to 12.
  - ☞ Possibly 11 or 12 at this point.

## II. Weak Faith (20-27)



- ☞ 22b - "But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!"
- ☞ Cf. 1:40 - And a leper came to Jesus, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, "If You are willing, You can make me clean."
- ☞ The leper: "if you will, you can."
- ☞ The father: "if you can, you will."

## II. Weak Faith (20-27)



- ☞ 27 - But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up.
- ☞ Cf. Matt. 17:18 - Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured at once.
- ☞ Cf. Luke 9:42b-43a - Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the boy and gave him back to his father. 43 And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.

## Divine Sovereignty vs. Human Responsibility in Salvation



- ☞ Human Responsibility
  - ☞ You must come to Jesus believing that He can.
  - ☞ Cf. Heb. 11:6 - without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
- ☞ Divine Sovereignty
  - ☞ You must realize that faith is a gift.
  - ☞ Cf. Acts 13:48 - as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.
  - ☞ Cf. Eph. 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.
  - ☞ Cf. Phil. 1:29 - to you it has been granted for Christ's sake...to believe in Him.

## John Calvin: the application for believers



- ☞ "He declares that he believes, and yet acknowledges himself to have unbelief. These two statements may appear to contradict each other, but there is none of us that does not experience both of them in himself. As our faith is never perfect, it follows that we are partly unbelievers; but God forgives us, and exercises such forbearance towards us, as to reckon us believers on account of a small portion of faith."