

JESUS CAN: THE UNDOING OF UNBELIEF

Mark 9:14-29

I. Our Unbelief is Our Undoing

Unbelief **exposed**

Scribes = self-righteous unbelief

“Your failure is evidence of what we have said all along — that you and your Rabbi are upstarts and glory-seekers.”

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Unbelief **exposed**

Crowd = self-absorbed unbelief

“We want to see the show — wow us.”

“I need to see you help this person so that you can help me, too.”

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Unbelief **exposed**

Disciples = self-reliant unbelief

“We’ve done this before, so we can handle it.” (e.g., Mark 6:13)

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Unbelief **exposed**

Father = self-defeating unbelief

“I’m not sure that even you can really help my son.”

I. Our Unbelief is Our Undoing

Unbelief **expressed**

This is a **spiritual principle** that God will work time and again in your life: **suffering** for the sake of **sanctification**. God will **purpose and guide** you through difficult and even exhausting **trials** to **expose** your own heart to you.

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” (Jer. 17:9) God will **expose** your weaknesses to you through trials, and He will drive foolishness and selfishness out of you as He teaches you to respond to Him in faith with everything that happens to you.

I. Our Unbelief is Our Undoing

Unbelief **expressed**

“If You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us...” (Mark 9:22)

This father is expressing what we all experience in our walk with Christ; because we have **weak faith**, we struggle to trust and believe God and to make each moment about glorifying Him.

I. Our Unbelief is Our Undoing

Unbelief **expressed**

“If You can...”

“If You can...”

— ‘I can; because of who I am, I can! Nothing is impossible for Me. All who believe in Me will find that it is true.’

The emphasis is that we should believe on the One Who can — the One in whom nothing is impossible.

I. Our Unbelief is Our Undoing

Unbelief **expressed**

The people in our passage are not looking at this situation and the needs involved in terms of **spiritual realities**. The primary issue is **spiritual**, and **everyone** is missing that reality as they get all caught up in themselves and their agendas!

We look to Jesus and **see clearly** how we should **interpret** and **act** in the situation.

I. Our Unbelief is Our Undoing

Unbelief **expressed**

“God’s concern in prayer is to shape a heart that trusts Him with everything.” (*Jeremy Pierre*)

II. Jesus Undoes Our Unbelief

Unbelief **expelled**

Jesus can. Jesus will. Jesus does.

II. Jesus Undoes Our Unbelief

Unbelief **explained**

What is prayer?

It is the **willful acknowledgement** of our **dependency on God** for what we need.

It is the **expression of our trust in God** to decide and provide what is best for us.

It is **yielding ourselves to His will** in humble faith.

It is agreeing with God in our hearts!

II. Jesus Undoes Our Unbelief

Unbelief **explained**

Jesus is telling them, ‘you did not **depend** on Me, **trust** Me and **yield** to Me; that is why you could not help this person.’

They waivered under the **deceptive pride of self-sufficiency**.

They **doubted God’s wisdom and way**, so they went their **own way** and acted in their **own weak power**.

II. Jesus Undoes Our Unbelief

Unbelief **explained**

‘This was a time when your faith in Me needed to be very deep and very strong, and you were not prepared because you have been doubting Me in other ways.’

This is a **wake-up call** for you to confess, repent, and believe Him in **all** that He has said and done — even though you **do not understand** everything about your need to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Him in faith.

II. Jesus Undoes Our Unbelief

Unbelief **explained**

What is your greatest spiritual weapon against personal sin?

Love — put into **action** — by **faith**.

How does your faith grow and become stronger?

Through **constant, close communion** with the Lord Jesus.

How do you nurture close communion with Jesus?

Through your **personal** and **congregational** communion with Jesus. It's both/and.

II. Jesus Undoes Our Unbelief

Unbelief can be your **undoing**.

You need to remember Who it is who **undoes your unbelief** and come to Him often in **humble prayer**, asking '**help my unbelief**'

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