

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.”

I. Our Unbelief is Our Undoing

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)

I. Our Unbelief is Our Undoing

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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