

Jesus Puts Up With His Disciples

Mark 9:14-37

Introduction:

A. Mother's Day

There are many great mothers in the Bible: **Sarah**, the mother of Isaac, **Jochebed**, the mother of Moses, **Hannah**, the mother of Samuel, **Eunice**, the mother of Timothy, and, of course, **Mary**, the mother of Jesus. These women show the power of a spiritual influence in the life of a child, and they teach young mothers today lessons of love, patience, perseverance, persistence, humility, kindness, commitment and devotion.

The book of **Proverbs** has a lot to say about the role and respect children should give to their mothers.

"My son, keep your father's command, and do not forsake the law of your mother." **6:20**

"Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her who bore you rejoice." **23:25**

"Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old." **23:22**

May we always heed the Biblical exhortation to "honor your mother." (Eph. 6:2).

– edited from an article by Ken Weliever, The Preacherman

B. How are mothers able to put up with our many weaknesses and still love us, still be proud of us, still encourage us and make us feel like we're worth something to them?

1. Like a mother, Jesus had to put up with a lot of weaknesses and failures by His disciples, yet He loved them to the end, and died for them.
2. **Mark 9:19 (ESV)** ¹⁹And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? **How long am I to bear with you?** Bring him to me."
3. In Mark 9:14-37 we see how Jesus had to put up with the **weak faith, immature understanding, and selfish ambition** of His disciples. Let's make some applications.

I. Weak Faith (Mark 9:14-29) – No Prayer, No Power

A. Why couldn't Jesus' disciples cast out the demon?

1. **Matthew 17:19-20 (ESV)** ¹⁹Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁰He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

B. After Jesus ascended, the apostles trusted greatly in the power of prayer

1. **Acts 1:14** "They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers."
2. **Acts 2:42** "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."
3. **Acts 4:31** "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."
4. **Acts 6:4** "but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

5. **Acts 12:12** “So, when he had considered *this*, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.”

C. **Ask in Faith – James 1:5-8 (NKJV)** ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸*he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

1. **1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV)** ¹⁴Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.
2. **Hebrews 4:15-16 (NKJV)** ¹⁵For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
3. **James 5:16 (NKJV)** ¹⁶Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
4. **Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)** ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
5. **Luke 18:1 (NKJV)** ¹Then He spoke a parable to them, that **men always ought to pray and not lose heart,**
Luke 18:8 (ESV) ⁸I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, **will he find faith on earth?”**

II. Immature Understanding (Mark 9:30-32) – When Will We Learn that Death Brings Life? (to the faithful)

- A. **Mark 9:30-32 (ESV)** ³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” ³²But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.
- B. **2 Corinthians 4:7-18 (ESV)** ⁷But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you. ¹³Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. ¹⁶So we do not lose heart.

Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.
¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 (ESV) ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

- C. **Acts 14:21-23 (NKJV)** ²¹And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, ²²strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” ²³So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

III. **Selfish Ambition (Mark 9:33-37) – The Anti-Servant**

Mark 9:33-37 (ESV) ³³And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” ³⁴But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

- A. Selfishness Is Never Satisfied (*King Solomon*)
- B. Selfishness Doesn't Pay, It Costs (*Prodigal Son; King David*)
- C. Selfishness Prevents Happiness (*Friends, Family, Brethren*)
- D. “It Is More Blessed To Give Than To Receive.”
 - 1. To the degree that we put our desires first we tend to be takers not givers... critical, self-righteous, complaining, lonely, discontented people.
 - 2. ***Givers are the most joyful, friendly, fulfilled AND LOVED people.***

Conclusion

We Can Rejoice That Jesus Puts Up With Us In Our...

- A. **Weak Faith (9:14-29) – No Prayer, No Power**
- B. **Immature Understanding (9:30-32) – When Will We Learn That Death Brings Life?**
- C. **Selfish Ambition (9:33-37) – The Anti-Servant**