

Chapter 9

¹Jesus said to them, “With absolute certainty I tell you this: There are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the Kingdom of God has come in power.”

²Six days later Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up into a high mountain where they were alone. In their presence his appearance was transformed. ³His robes turned glittering white - whiter than any launderer in the world could ever make them. ⁴Then Elijah appeared to them, with Moses, and they were speaking with Jesus.

⁵Peter responded by saying to Jesus, “Teacher, it is good for us to be here. Let us pitch three tents – one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶(For he did not know what to say for they were terrified.)

⁷Then a cloud formed and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my beloved son. Listen to him.” ⁸Suddenly as they looked around, they no longer saw anyone - just Jesus alone with them.

⁹Then as they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them not to describe to anyone what they had seen, until the Son of Man is risen from the dead. ¹⁰So, they kept the matter to themselves but debated what he meant by “rising from the dead.”

¹¹And so they were questioning him, “Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?”

¹²He replied, “Indeed, Elijah does come first and restores all things. But why is it written that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be despised? ¹³But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did whatever they wanted to him, just as it is written about him.”

¹⁴When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵The whole crowd was amazed as soon as they saw him, and they ran to greet him.

¹⁶Jesus asked the scribes, “What are you arguing about with them?”

¹⁷But a man from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you who is possessed by a spirit that makes him unable to speak. ¹⁸Whenever it seizes him it throws him into convulsions. He foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and is paralyzed. I told your disciples so that they would cast it out, but they could not.”

¹⁹Jesus responded to them, saying, “Oh unbelieving generation! How long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to me.”

²⁰So, they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw Jesus, he immediately threw the boy into convulsions. Falling on the ground, he was rolling around and foaming at the mouth.

²¹Jesus questioned his father, “How long has this been happening to him?”

He replied, "Since childhood. ²²Many times the spirit has thrown him into fire and into water to destroy him. But if you can do anything, help us - have compassion on us!"

²³But Jesus said to him, "If I can?! All things are possible when one believes."

²⁴Immediately the child's father screamed, "I believe! Help my unbelief!"

²⁵When Jesus saw that the crowd was continuing to grow, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

²⁶The spirit departed with screaming and violent spasms. Because the child appeared to be dead, many were saying, "He's dead!"

²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and awakened him, and he stood up.

²⁸After Jesus had entered a house, his disciples were questioning him privately, "Why were we not able to cast out the spirit?"

²⁹He responded, "Nothing can remove this kind of spirit except prayer."

³⁰They departed from there and were passing through Galilee, and Jesus did not want anyone to know it ³¹for he was teaching his disciples. He was telling them, "The Son of Man is handed over into the hands of men, and they will kill him. But three days after being killed he will rise up." ³²However, they did not understand what he said, and they were hesitant to question him about it.

³³Then they came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house, he questioned them, "What were you discussing on the way?" ³⁴But they remained silent, because on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest.

³⁵After taking a seat he summoned the twelve and said to them, "Anyone who desires to be first must be last of all and servant of all."

³⁶Then he stood a child in the middle of them, embraced him, and said to them, ³⁷"Whoever receives a child like this in my name receives me, and whoever receives me does not receive me, but the one who sent me."

³⁸John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name and we tried to stop him because he was not following us."

³⁹Jesus replied, "Do not hinder him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will then speak evil of me. ⁴⁰For whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly never lose his reward."

⁴²"But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin is better off if a

heavy millstone is hung around his neck and he is thrown into the sea.”

⁴³“If your hand entices you to sin, cut it off. You are better off entering eternal life crippled than departing into Hell with two hands – into the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot entices you to sin, cut it off. You are better off entering eternal life lame than to be cast into Hell with two feet. ⁴⁷And if your eye entices you to sin, throw it away. You are better off entering the Kingdom of God with one eye than to be cast into Hell with two eyes, ⁴⁸where their maggots never die and the fire never goes out.”

⁴⁹“For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good. But if salt loses its saltiness, how will you season it again? Have a salt-like quality in yourselves and be at peace with one another.”