

## Unpacking the Preach

Date Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
Sermon Title A call to multiply  
Bible Passage Mark 9:14-32

### **Introduction**

Take time to read the passages again and reflect on the below questions:

- Are there any new or different things that the scriptures have spoken to you about?

### **Recapping the preach**

- Jesus is in the midst of the mission fields as we fight those spiritual battles, just as much as the heavenly 'Mountain top' moments of our lives where we see, hear and experience God in prayer.
- When we stay close to Jesus, unwavering in our dedication to Him, He stays with us as He leads us into mission alongside him.
- We must not rely on ourselves but humble ourselves before God in prayer first, or expect to be humbled to get our attention back onto where our power comes from.
- Out of our failure, our weaknesses should we face them, comes the grace and truth of Christ to transform us.
- Jesus has compassion for those who stand before him and profess their need for him, not rely on themselves.
- It is this compassion, this love for people that Christ has, that should compel us to live like him and show the same to others, especially those who don't deserve it - like us *and* his disciples here who fall short.
- Only in our weakness are we made strong in Christ. **Questions**

### **For reflection**

- Back in Chapter 6:13 the disciples drove out many demons yet here they could not...have you experienced a situation like this before when what has worked in the past, has not worked again in another situation?
- How does failure to do what we believe God is calling us to do, have an effect on us?
- How willing are we to humble ourselves when we get it wrong?

- Conflict and confusion can surround us in the midst of reaching out to people, this is because a spiritual battle is taking place – salvation can be a messy process – what gift or weapon from God have you asked for or needed when walking alongside someone who is lost?
- When we reach out in mission, when we touch searing pain, however lovingly, people are liable to lash out like the boy possessed – why do we think this is?
- Discuss why Compassion is so vital in these circumstances?

### **Going Deeper**

- The passage isn't simply another passage about Jesus healing someone, banishing demons. We see disciples struggling without the presence of Jesus, and then Jesus turning up, things getting a little more heated and then calm as God is glorified through HIS actions and not the disciples.
- Read through the passage before this 9:2-13 (Jesus Transfiguration) and discuss the significance of being led up the mountain to see God for who He is, and then being led back down straight into battle to see what He does.

### **Response**

- Recognize our frailties
- Humble ourselves in prayer
- Learn to depend on God's grace and power each day
- Hear and respond to the call to "Follow me"

### **Prayer pointers**

- Be filled with compassion and patience
- That we don't despair in times of battle
- Confidence in Jesus to lead us in mission, stay with us, take us back up the mountain for refreshment, and then back down again into battle once more.

### **Additional resources:**

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>

- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>