Date: November 8, 2026
Series: Mark: The Sovereign, Suffering Servant
Title: From Glory to the Trenches
Text: Mark 9:14-29

HARBOUR SHORES CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."
(John 15:5)

Note: It is a hard but necessary lesson to learn: We <u>continually</u> need Jesus!
A distracted, faithless life and a prayerless, self-centered ministry are sad, weak, pitiful things.

I. FAITHLESS GENERATION, FAITHFUL SAVIOR

Mark 9:14-16 -

1) Our faith does not rest in our previous success but in our <u>present</u> Savior!

(Exodus 33:15-17 and John 17:25-26)

Mark 9:17-19 -

2) Our fundamental problem is that we are faithless. We do not believe or trust God as we should. We would rather die trying to "fix" things ourselves than humble ourselves and surrender to Jesus, who <u>alone</u> is the gracious Lord and Savior.

(Romans 14:23; Numbers 14:11; Hebrews 11:6)

Mark 9:20-23 -

3) Our problem is never God's inability. Our problem is never that God is lacking in compassion. Our problem is never that God is absent-minded. Our problem is our stubborn, defiant, prayerless <u>unbelief</u>.

(James 1:2-4 and James 1:12)

Mark 9:24-27 -

4) It is right, good, and appropriate to confess the reality of our faith, the weakness of our faith, and our <u>need</u> for God's help!

Note: Faith is like a muscle: It must be <u>exercised</u>, or it will weaken and atrophy.

(Hebrews 7:25)

Mark 9:28-29 -

5) Where faith is lacking, prayer will be minimal. Where arrogance and self-confidence are thriving, dependence upon God will be virtually nonexistent. Where ministry is driven by human personality, fueled by fleshly strength, and divorced from prayerful dependence, the power of God will be strangely <u>absent</u>.

(Matthew 7:7-11)

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application…

1. Do you identify with the father's words, "I believe; help my unbelief!"? If so, how?
2. Why were the 9 Disciples unable to cast out the demon? What does this teach us about prayer?
3. What hinders you most from spending more time in prayer? How could you address this problem?
4. Jesus called His generation a "faithless generation". What does that mean? Why was this so troubling to Jesus? Where do you see examples of faithlessness in you and around you?
5. Does your praying reflect a heart that trusts God and believes that He is able to do anything? What are the most urgent matters that you feel compelled to pray about?