



THURSDAY 10.14.10

Mark 9:14-25

The scene that begins with the 14th verse of chapter 9 immediately follows Jesus taking Peter, James and John to a high mountain where they see a vision of Elijah and Moses with Jesus (which is narrated in the first 13 verses of chapter 9). Upon their return, Jesus finds his disciples trying to heal a boy who had been possessed from childhood. The boy's father has come to find whatever help he can.

- The boy's father says to Jesus, "If you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." How does Jesus respond to the man? What was he trying to communicate to this father?
- "I do believe," the man responded, "help me overcome my unbelief." Have you ever struggled to believe that recovery could really happen in your life? How do you think Jesus felt about the man asking for help to overcome his unbelief?



FRIDAY 10.15.10

II Corinthians 5:17

In John 14, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the light." Truth is what we come to the scriptures to find, and our faith teaches us that these truths are what shape our identity and give us our hope. Growing in our understanding of the scriptures and in our ability to apply them is one of our most important tasks as Christians. Memorizing these truths is one of the ways that we seek to build our lives on the "solid rock" rather than the "shifting sand."

- Today, make a commitment to memorize the 19 words that make up this short verse of scripture. Archive this truth deep in your heart that it might not only shape your identity but also remind you that God believes in your recovery. For those who have claimed Christ, the old is gone and the new has come!



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A RESOURCE FOR DISCIPLES SEEKING TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS & SERVE THE WORLD ...

Series: Broken

Scripture: Mark 5:21-34

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon:



Introduction

A very simple phrase has been a guide for us in this series. "Everyone is recovering from something." We have all experienced brokenness in our lives. We have all been hurt, and we have all hurt others at some point in our lives. Romans says it this way, "We have all fallen short," but the Bible consistently responds to our woundedness with three simple words, "There is hope."

Hope comes from Christ. Jesus is God's way of saying "I believe in you." Recovery is possible because of God and God's grace, and this week we will be reminded of several characters we find in the Bible who experienced recovery in an amazing way. As you read this week, consider how God might be calling you to take the next step in your own recovery. God has taken the first step. How will we respond?

God, thank you for the hope I have in Christ. Thank you for the promises you have made to me and for your commitment to seeing recovery happen in my life. When I feel discouraged or afraid, you refuse to give up on me. When all else fails, God, I know that you never will. Strengthen me today to not only seek your healing in my own life but to also be an instrument of grace in the lives of others. AMEN.



TUESDAY 10.12.10

Acts 9:1-9

The character that we encounter in chapter 9 of Acts will later be made known to us by a different name, Paul. The great apostle for the Gentiles in places like Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Colosse and others is first introduced to us as Saul, a man whose original mission was the murder of the first Christians. All of that changed on the road to Damascus when Saul first encountered Christ.

- Saul's story is a reminder to us that by God's grace our future is not inhibited by the sins of our past. Do you find yourself struggling with guilt from your own past mistakes? In what way? How might Saul's guilt over his former life have kept him from becoming the great apostle who would write a large portion of the New Testament?
- What might guilt be keeping you from becoming in your life?



MONDAY 10.11.10

Matthew 16:13-18

Peter's life was filled with ups and downs. Originally known as Simon, this fisherman from Galilee had been given a new name by Jesus. From the first moment that he met him, somehow Jesus understood that Simon was going to be a "rock," and so he renamed him Peter, which meant "rock." Long before Peter's life and story amounted to anything, Jesus saw something in him.

- Jesus asked an important question in verse 15. What does Peter's willingness to answer this question say about his character and heart?
- When Samuel the prophet was sent out to anoint a new king over Israel, he was given the instruction, "The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." What do you think Jesus saw in Peter? What might Jesus see in you?



WEDNESDAY 10.13.10

II Samuel 12:1-8

While his army was away fighting, David had committed adultery with a woman named Bathsheba. And upon discovering that she was pregnant, David had sent her husband, Uriah, to the front lines so that he might be killed. David had stolen Uriah's future, and the prophet had come to expose the king's sin.

- After Uriah's death, Bathsheba became David's wife. II Samuel 11:27 records, "The thing David had done displeased the Lord." Although David had covered up his mistake, his sin was still exposed before the Lord. Have you ever been successful in "hiding" your sin from others? How did that affect your relationship with God?
- David did experience recovery in his life. It started with the prayer recorded in Psalm 51. Take a moment to read that Psalm today and consider, "Is there anything in my life for which I need to ask God's forgiveness?"
