

Mark 9:14-29

A Possessed Boy. ¹⁴ As they approached the disciples, they saw a large crowd standing around, and scribes in lively discussion with them. ¹⁵ Immediately on catching sight of Jesus, the whole crowd was overcome with awe. They ran up to greet him. ¹⁶ He asked them, **“What are you discussing among yourselves?”** ¹⁷ “Teacher,” a man in the crowd replied, “I have brought my son to you because he is possessed by a mute spirit. ¹⁸ Whenever it seizes him it throws him down; he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. Just now I asked your disciples to expel him, but they were unable to do so.” ¹⁹ He replied by saying to the crowd, **“What an unbelieving lot you are! How long must I remain with you? How long can I endure you? Bring him to me.”** ²⁰ When they did so the spirit caught sight of Jesus and immediately threw the boy into convulsions. As he fell to the ground he began to roll around and foam at the mouth. ²¹ Then Jesus questioned the father: **“How long has this been happening to him?”** “From childhood,” the father replied. ²² “Often it throws him into fire and into water. You would think it would kill him. If out of the kindness of your heart you can do anything to help us, please do!” ²³ Jesus said, **“‘If you can’? Everything is possible to a man who trusts.”** ²⁴ The boy’s father immediately exclaimed, “I do believe! Help my lack of trust!” ²⁵ Jesus, on seeing a crowd rapidly gathering, reprimanded the unclean spirit by saying to him, **“Mute and deaf spirit, I command you: Get out of him and never enter him again!”** ²⁶ Shouting, and throwing the boy into convulsions, it came out of him; the boy became like a corpse, which caused many to say, “He is dead.” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet. ²⁸ When Jesus arrived at the house his disciples began to ask him privately, “Why is it that we could not expel it?” ²⁹ He told them, **“This kind you can drive out only by prayer.”**