

Sunday's Sermon:

Down from the Mountain, Mark 9:14-29

On Sunday, we picked up directly after Jesus' transfiguration. After coming down from that spiritually significant moment, Jesus sees some scribes arguing with his disciples over the fact that they were unable to cast out a demon from a young boy. In the end, the disciples were reminded of the importance of relying on God at all times.

Study It:

In Jeremiah's day, the people of Israel were entrenched in idolatry. It was so rampant that he says the sin was "engraved on the tablet of their heart" (Jer. 17:1). Simply put, the people of Israel had ceased to rely on God and were instead relying on things they could easily touch and see. The people were reminded that this path will only end in ruin.

Read Jeremiah 17:5-9

1. It intellectually makes sense to trust in God over man, and yet we often do the very opposite. Why does this happen?
2. Can someone "trust in man" without turning "away from the Lord"? Why or why not?
3. Restate verse 7-8 in your own words.
4. How does verse 9 relate to verses 5-8? Do you agree or disagree with verse 9? Why?

In the next section, Jesus reminds His followers to not be anxious about the future. Even though this message was preached nearly 2,000 years ago, it is still just as relevant to us today. We can never be certain of what the future holds, so Jesus' advice is simple; why worry about it? To back up his point, He gives examples from the natural world.

Read Matthew 6:25-34

5. Can someone simultaneously rely on God and still be anxious about the future? Why or why not?
6. What verse do you think is the key verse of this section? Rewrite it in your own words.
7. Jesus tells us to not worry about food and clothing, yet there have been many followers of Jesus who have gone without these very things. Is Jesus guaranteeing that we'll always have these things? How would you summarize His message?
8. Do you find it easy or difficult to "not be anxious about tomorrow"? How could remembering to rely on God help us in this area?