

Reflection Questions for Week 9
Chapter 9

Read Chapter 9 in Mark's Gospel and Pages 172-194 in the Mary Healy Commentary. As you read, pause and reflect on the following questions. You will share as many of these as time permits on January 29th in your small group.

Ch. 9:2-8 By his transfiguration, Jesus strengthened three of his disciples' faith for the difficult situations that lay ahead. *Have there been times when God has done something unusual to strengthen your faith in the midst of difficult circumstances?*

Ch. 9:9 Jesus does not stay on the mountaintop after his transfiguration. He descends to continue his mission, telling his disciples to "not relate what they had seen to anyone." Jesus transfiguration (a glimpse of his resurrected glory) could not be understood apart from his dying and rising. *Which one do I identify with more, Jesus' dying, rising, or both equally?*

Ch. 9:22-23 Jesus notes the father's uncertain faith. He tells him that "everything is possible to one who has faith." He must trust that Jesus is able and willing to free his son. *Have you ever prayed like the father, "I believe, help my own belief."?*

Ch. 9:33-34 Jesus asks his disciples why they were arguing; they remained silent. *Why do the disciples remain silent?*

Ch. 9:35-37 Jesus drives home his message by taking a child (at that time children had no status) and telling them they by receiving a "child such as this in my name, receives me." Jesus identifies himself with the unimportant people of this world. Thus, what we do for them we do for Jesus. *Whom does Jesus ask me to serve?*

Ch. 9:42-48 Jesus' followers not only have to worry about causing others to stumble but also with stumbling themselves. Jesus continues here to stress the ultimate consequences of our behavior. He uses vivid comparisons to talk about the seriousness of our actions in light of their long-term consequences (cutting off a foot, plucking out an eye). *Are there any "hands" or "feet" of your own that you should consider getting rid of?*

Ch. 9:49-50 Salt is good, useful for preserving and seasoning. Jesus' disciples have their usefulness too, in sharing the work of Jesus. Disciples who do nothing for Jesus are disciples in name only, just as salt that does not season is not salt. Salt enables the disciples to "have peace with one another." *What is my saltiness—my usefulness—for Jesus? What are some things that I do to create peace with others (especially with those who are more difficult for me)?*

In the Gospel Reading this week, what touched me most deeply?