

SERMON TEXT: Mark 9:14-29

¹⁴And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. ¹⁶And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" ¹⁷And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. ¹⁸And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." ¹⁹And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." ²⁰And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. ²²And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." ²³And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." ²⁴Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" ²⁵And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." ²⁶And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. ²⁸And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁹And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

SERMON OUTLINE

I. Unbelief disguised as belief (9:14-22)

1. A religious argument...
2. A failed attempt at ministry...
3. A less-than-enthusiastic endorsement...

II. Belief disguised as unbelief (9:22-29)

1. A father on the brink...
2. A teachable moment...
3. A new perspective on an old practice...

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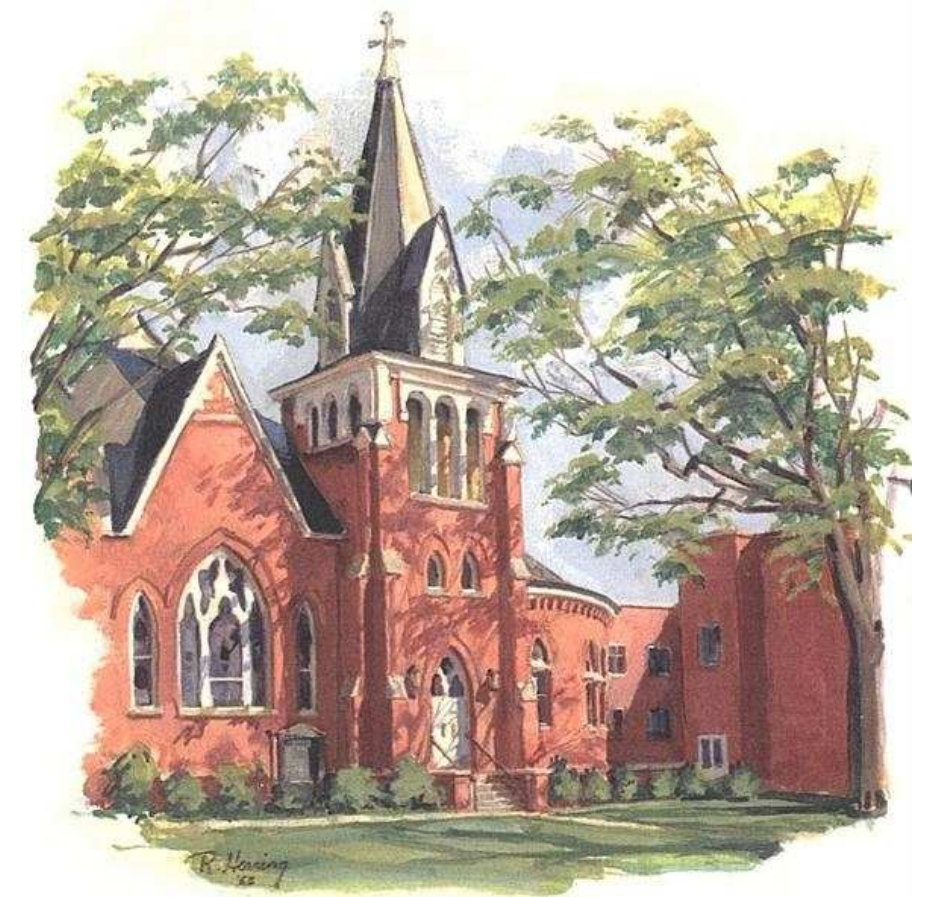
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Loving God... Loving People... Making Disciples

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

249 West McLelland Avenue
 Mooresville, North Carolina 28115
 704-664-5275 ♦ www.moorevillefirstpres.org

April 6, 2008 ♦ 2nd Sunday after Easter ♦ 11:00 A.M.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP.....Dr. Clay J. Brown

Welcome and Announcements
 Invocation

PRELUDE: *I Know That My Redeemer Lives*.....Daly
 Joanne Daykin

MINUTE FOR MISSION.....PYF

THE DOXOLOGY: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow.....34
 Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all
 creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise
 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

HYMN: *Crown Him with Many Crowns.....317

ANTHEM: *Breathe*.....arr: Bettcher
 Middle School Handbells

CHILDREN'S SERMON..... Dr. Fred Coates

THE WORD OF GOD READ: Genesis 15:1-6.....p. 11
 Bob Campbell

*HYMN: *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*..... 419

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Confession

Merciful God, through Jesus Christ you promise forgiveness and new life. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves. We cling to destructive habits and hold grudges. We allow the past to hold us hostage and live in fear of the future. In your loving-kindness, O Lord, have mercy on us. Free us from our sin...

Thanksgiving

Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory: *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*..... arr: Ivey
Exaltation Ringers

*Response: *Give Thanks*..... 359

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. (Repeat)

And now let the weak say "I am strong," let the poor say "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. (Repeat) Give thanks!

*Prayer of Dedication

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

Sermon Text: Mark 9:14-29

Sermon: *I Believe—Help My Unbelief*..... Dr. Brown

*HYMN: *I Know Whom I Have Believed* (Verses 1-3)..... 407

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*GOING IN GOD'S NAME

Invitation

Charge and Benediction

Response: *I Know Whom I Have Believed* (Verse 4)..... 407

*POSTLUDE: *Lift High the Cross*..... Ore

* **Those who are able** will please stand.

If you are our guest today, welcome! We're so glad you're here. For more information on FPC, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad and/or take home a "Welcome Home" folder from the Parlor. **You can become a FPC member TODAY** by your profession of faith, transfer of membership, or reaffirmation of faith. Please speak with a pastor following the service.

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. **Assisted listening devices** are available from the sound console at the back of the sanctuary.

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by the Carpenter family.

Recent Prayer Requests: Lecie Miller; those grieving over lost loved ones; Edith Thompson, Pat Campbell's mother; Catherine Craig; Anita Teeter; Terry Stevens; Curtis Blake, Cathy Brown's father; Joyce Gilland, Jean Coates' sister; Martha Andrews; Jackie Potter; Sr. A Tim Irwin, USAF; and QM 3 SW Laban Thompson.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING APRIL 13: In accordance with the Book of Order, the Session has called a congregational meeting at the request of the Church Officer Nominating Committee for Sunday, April 13, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The purpose for the meeting is to nominate and elect a person to fill a vacancy on the Diaconate's Class of 2008. The person elected to this position will be eligible for nomination and election to a full three-year term in the Class of 2011. The committee will nominate Lucy Hastings to complete the vacant term. An information packet on Lucy will be mailed to the congregation this week. The floor will be open for additional nominations during the meeting, and the election will occur immediately after nominations cease. Please be in prayer for this important gathering.

Men's Breakfast: April 13 will be our next meeting and Dr. Mark Stanback, Davidson College ornithologist, will speak on Bluebirds and some studies they are doing on nesting in this area. Bird watchers, men and women, are invited to attend. If you are not a regular attendee and you would like to eat and fellowship with Presbyterian Men, please notify the church office so we can prepare food for all. See you there. *John Neeb*

Tuesday, April 8: Circle 5 will meet at the home of Shirley Crowley and will carpool from the front of the church (Academy Street parking lot) at 11:30. Bring a bag lunch.

Donations are being accepted for bottles of water (usually bought by the case) for the Mooresville Downtown Festival to be held on May 17. FPC is sponsoring a booth this year, highlighting activities and worship services available at our church. We will be giving away cold water in bottles, since it has been very hot weather for the festival in the past. Water can be left in the fellowship hall at a designated area. We need a lot of bottles of water! Questions: call Nancy Omohundro at 704-660-1552.

The flockings continue....the birds are moving around the Mooresville area as we speak. If you would like to send them to someone special, see Alan Sledge or email flamingo@mooresvillefirstpres.org. All proceeds go to the PYF summer mission trip to Yakama, WA.

Logos/MSM Year-End Banquet: All weekly Logos/MSM staff and participants are invited to a year-end banquet this Wednesday, April 9, at 6:15 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Logos/MSM will follow its regular schedule this

week, from 4:00-7:15 p.m. Parents are invited to see the year-end slide show at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Church School Social: Everyone is invited to attend the March "MADness" Victory Celebration breakfast this morning from 9:30-10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Following breakfast, church school classes will be held from 10:00-10:40 a.m.

Logos Musical Rehearsals: All Logos choir members (grades 1-6) should plan to be at upcoming musical rehearsals, scheduled for this Saturday, April 12, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. and next Sunday, April 13, at 4:30 p.m.

Logos Musical: Everyone is invited to attend the Logos Choir's performance of the musical, *Survivor Babylon*, next Sunday evening, April 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. After the performance, desserts will be served.

Calendar for April 6 – 13, 2008

Sunday:	8:30 a.m. - Worship
	9:30 a.m. - Church School Social in the Fellowship Hall
	9:45 a.m. - Church School
	11:00 a.m. - Worship with MSM Handbells
	Congregational Meeting following worship
	3:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Parlor
	4:15 p.m. - Alpha PYF
	5:15 p.m. - Omega PYF
	7:00 p.m. - Committee Meetings
Monday:	7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts
	7:30 p.m. - Bibles Study at the Coates' home
Tuesday:	9:30 a.m. - Moms in Touch
	10:00 a.m. - Circle of Faith (No. 4) in the Parlor
	12:00 p.m. - Women of the Word (No. 5) at the home of Shirley Crowley
Wednesday:	11:00 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner
	4:00 p.m. - Logos/MSM – <i>Hooray for Hollywood</i> night
	6:15 p.m. - Logos/MSM Year-end Banquet
	6:15 p.m. - HS Supper Club at Arby's
Thursday:	9:30 a.m. - Bible Study at the Rogers' home
	6:00 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers
	6:00 p.m. - Fun & Fellowship at Golden Corral
	7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir
Friday:	10:00 a.m. - Women's Bible Study in the library
Saturday:	9:00 a.m. - Logos Musical Rehearsal
	1:00 p.m. - Confirmation Retreat
Sunday 4/13:	8:30 a.m. - Worship
	8:30 a.m. - Presbyterian Men's Breakfast
	9:45 a.m. - Church School with Logos Choir and Catechism Club recognition
	11:00 a.m. - Worship
	Congregational Meeting following worship
	4:15 p.m. - Alpha PYF
	5:15 p.m. - Omega PYF
	4:30 p.m. - Logos Musical Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m. - Logos Musical with dessert following in FH