

Direction or Perfection?

(Mark 9:14:32)

- Introduction:
1. I received a card from my daughter many years ago that said, “Dear Mama & Daddy, I love you guys so super, duper much! Thank you for everything you do for me. You guys are the best. Love, Anne Marie.”
 2. With this note, was a drawing that attempted to draw the three of us holding hands.
 3. Do you think I would reject, this drawing from my daughter due to her imperfections.
 4. Hopefully, in all of us, we long for perfection as followers of Jesus, but it alludes us.
 5. This imperfection robs some Christians of any joy and hope of heaven.
 6. Let’s see how Jesus dealt with imperfection from his disciples.

I. We See Imperfect Performance

- A. (Mark 9:14-18).
- B. The disciples failed at healing a young man, and the Scribes capitalized on it.
- C. They had many successes (Mark 6:7-13), but here they failed.
- D. When we fail, there will always be people around who will remind us.
- E. Jesus offers instruction (Mark 9:29)

II. We See Imperfect Faith

- A. (Mark 9:19-27).
- B. The father freely admitted to his imperfect faith.
- C. Even John the Baptist (Luke 7:18-23).
- D. He was trying, but not perfect.
- E. Jesus granted his request despite his imperfect faith.

III. We See Imperfect Knowledge

- A. (Mark 9:28-32).
- B. The disciples admit to not knowing why this happened to them.
- C. It’s not necessarily a fatal mistake to “not know” something if you are actively seeking “to know.”
- D. Remember we are disciples – learners, and the Christian life is not an event, but a process of growth (2 Peter 2:18).

- Conclusion:
1. Which brings us to the title of this lesson – Direction or Perfection.
 2. Are you imperfect? Yes! Of course you are.
 3. But what is the direction of your life?
 - a. Are your imperfections committed as you pursue God.
 - b. Or, are your imperfections committed as you rebel against God?