

# Mark 9

Lesson for Sunday, July 30, 2023

CHAPTER SUMMARY: Peter, James and John witness Jesus's transfiguration on a mountaintop. Jesus heals a demon-possessed boy and again predicts His own death and resurrection.

1. Transfiguration (vs. 1-13)
  - a. Ascending the Mount of Transfiguration (vs. 1-2a)
  - b. On the Mount of Transfiguration (vs. 2b-8)
  - c. Descending the Mount of Transfiguration (vs. 9-13)
2. Restoration (vs. 14-32)
  - a. The preliminaries (vs. 14-16)
  - b. The particulars (vs. 17-29)
    - i. The victim (vs. 17-22)
    - ii. The victor (vs. 23-29)
  - c. The prophecy (vs. 30-32)
3. Clarification (vs. 33-50)
  - a. He speaks concerning humility (vs. 33-37)
  - b. He speaks concerning harmony (vs. 38-41)
  - c. He speaks concerning hell (vs. 42-50)

## INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Option: Have you ever had a life-changing experience? *Allow for some to share...*
- ⇒ Option: Have you ever found yourself imitating someone else? How does that happen?
- ⇒ Both of these questions can produce some discussion that leads toward the Transfiguration.

## BIBLE STUDY:

1. The Event of the Transfiguration (vs. 2-3)
  - a. The People: Jesus took with Him Peter, James and John. The event that was about to take place would leave a deep impression on these men.
  - b. The Place: Jesus took them "up into a high mountain." Most believe that this mountain was Mt. Hermon which is about 9200 feet above sea level. It is the highest mountain in that area.
  - c. The Purpose: We know that the main purpose of this climb was the transfiguration. But in Luke's account (9:28) he states that they "went up into a mountain to pray."
    - i. One of the things we observe about the life of the Lord Jesus within the gospel accounts is His practice of prayer.
    - ii. Luke indicates that the transfiguration took place "as He prayed."
  - d. The Transfiguration:
    - i. Mark 9:2, "He was transfigured before them."
    - ii. Verse 3, His clothes "became shining, exceeding white as snow."
    - iii. Matthew's account (17:2) says Jesus's face "shone like the sun."
  - e. The word that the authors used is "transfigured." The term is the basis of our word "metamorphosis," which is a change on the outside that comes from the inside.
    - i. It is the opposite of "masquerade," which is an outward change that does not come from within.
    - ii. Suddenly, what Jesus was on the inside burst to the outside! Glory radiated from His face.
    - iii. Someone put it like this: *This was not a new miracle, but the temporary pause of an ongoing miracle. The real miracle was that Jesus, most of the time, could keep from displaying His glory.*
2. The Context of the Transfiguration
  - a. To understand all that was happening, we must remember when this event was taking place.

- b. Jesus had just told His disciples that He was going the way of the cross (Mark 8:31), and He had challenged them to follow His example (Mark 8:34-38).
  - c. It would have been easy for the disciples to lose confidence in Jesus after such a negative statement.
  - d. But now, here is Jesus displayed in all of His glory! On display on that mountaintop was the perfect, sinless, holy humanity of Jesus Christ. He is the righteous and Holy Son of God.
  - e. Think of the assurance this would have given these three men.
    - i. They now knew that Jesus was in complete control – even if He was to suffer, be rejected and killed.
    - ii. Now they understood that the cross was the path to the goal, and the goal is the glory of God.
3. The Patriarchs at the Transfiguration (vs. 4)
- a. Elijah and Moses appear and are talking with Jesus. In Mark’s account (via Peter), he does not focus on what they were talking about. But Luke specifies that they were talking about Jesus’s impending death.
  - b. There are two basic interpretations as to why Elijah and Moses were there specifically.
    - i. One is that Moses represents the Law, and Elijah represents the prophets. The sum of the Old Testament revelation has come to meet with Jesus.
    - ii. The other is that Moses represents those who die and go to glory, and Elijah represents those who are caught up to Heaven without death.
  - c. This, too, would have provided confidence in Peter, James and John. Right in front of them, the disciples saw evidence of life beyond this life. When they saw Moses and Elijah, they knew that Moses had lived and passed from this world 1400 years before, and Elijah had lived some 900 years before. Yet there they were, alive in glory before them. It gave them confidence in Jesus’ claim to resurrection.
4. The Interruption of the Transfiguration (vs. 5-6)
- a. At this point Peter does what Peter would usually do – open his mouth!
  - b. Mark writes in verse 5, “And Peter answered and said unto Jesus.” The problem appears to be that no one asked him a question! Mark indicates as much in verse 6 when he explains that they were terrified and didn’t know what to say or do!
  - c. Peter proposes making three tabernacles (memorials): one for Jesus, one for Moses and one for Elijah.
  - d. What Peter said was foolish because he put Jesus on an equal level with Elijah and Moses – one tabernacle for each! But Jesus isn’t just another Moses or Elijah, or even a *greater* Moses or Elijah. Jesus is the Son of God.
5. The Interpretation of the Transfiguration (vs. 7-10)
- a. A cloud came and overshadowed them representing God Himself. God often appears in a cloud throughout the Bible (Exodus 13:21-22; Exodus 16:10; Exodus 33:9-10; 1 Kings 8:10-11, etc.).
  - b. The voice from the cloud of glory made it clear that Jesus was not on the same level as Elijah and Moses. He is the beloved Son – so Hear Him!
  - c. Jesus commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.
  - d. Here’s what we know: This event left a lasting impression on Peter, James and John.
    - i. James would write of Jesus as “the Lord of glory” (James 2:1)
    - ii. John would write, “we beheld His glory” (John 1:14).
    - iii. Peter would write that they were “eyewitnesses of His majesty” (2 Peter 1:16).

#### APPLICATION:

- ⇒ The word “transfigured” is the same word Paul would choose to use in describing the change that should happen in the lives of believers (see Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:18).
- ⇒ A principle to take away from this text: We become like the One we behold.
- ⇒ Are you being transformed by the Transfigured One?