



Mount of Transfiguration

Text: Mark 9:1-13

Context: We've discussed the climax of Mark's Gospel—Peter's Confession (Mark 8:27-33), and we've studied how Jesus has re-defined followership/discipleship (34-38). Now we come to the last half of Mark's Gospel. The transition in Mark 9:1 leads to a transformational experience for Peter, James and John.

Read Mark 9:1

Most conservative commentaries believe this statement refers to one of five things: (1) Resurrection & Ascension of Jesus; (2) Pentecost; (3) Jerusalem's destruction in AD 70; (4) Manifestation of the kingdom in the church; or (5) the Transfiguration [*Hint: Pick this one!*]. For our discussion, we'll go with the "some" as a reference to Peter, James and John (Mk 9:2a) and what they "see" on the mount (Mark 9:2b-8). This statement is a bridge from the climax of Mark 8:27-38 and Jesus' rebuke of Peter (although Peter is going to get it wrong again in 9:5-6); the disciples have just heard about the path of self-denial and suffering with their own cross. Now, the true glory of Jesus will be revealed to them.

Read Mark 9:2-13

1) Jesus is transfigured and Peter, James and John are eyewitnesses. (Mark 9:2-4)

Why do you think Jesus took only three and not the entire twelve to the top of the mountain? What's the significance of Elijah and Moses appearing? (Read Luke 9:31 to see what they talked about.) How would you have reacted to Jesus' immediate change before your very eyes?

2) God speaks, "Listen to Him!" [*or this section could be titled: Peter Does it Again!*] (Mark 9:5-8)

Why does Peter speak when he's afraid (re-read verses 5-6 in reverse order)? What's the significance of God speaking at this moment? Read 2 Peter 1:16-18 and see how this impacted Peter's life.

3) Jesus teaches the Bible is true and will be fulfilled as written. (Mark 9:9-13)

Why does Jesus instruct the three to not tell anyone? (Does this include the other 9?) Why do the disciples "seize" upon the "rising from the dead" statement, yet ask about Elijah? How does Jesus teach the Bible is true and will be fulfilled in this passage?

BIG IDEA: Listen to Jesus! It's up to us to trust in Jesus alone. (Mark 9:7)

God says, "This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!" Like the disciples, we can get distracted and confused and not focus on Jesus alone. It's up to us to trust in the person, redeeming work and words of Jesus.

What distracts you from listening and trusting in Jesus alone?

Read 2 Peter 1:16-21 for more background on how this experience impacted Peter. While we don't want circumstances or experience to determine our trust in the Word of God, they do impact us. *How have your experiences or circumstances shaped your trust in God's Word and in Jesus?*

What can you do this week to keep your focus on Jesus?

Next Week's Passage: Mark 9:14-29 (Help My Unbelief)