

# The Gospel According to Mark

## Glory, Greatness, And The Way Down

Mark 9:2–13; 10:35–45

- The cross is not optional; discipleship requires denial.

### Mark 9:2 (NLT)

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone.

- Jesus Himself is the revelation of God's glory.

### Hebrews 1:3 (NIV)

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being...

- Glory reveals who Jesus is; "Greatness" reveals who we are.

## I. The Glory Of Jesus Is Unveiled

### Mark 9:2–4 (NIV)

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

- Moses + Elijah = The Law and the Prophets.
- Glory strengthens obedience; it doesn't replace it.

## II. We Want To Permanently Preserve The Experiences God Temporarily Permits To Prepare Us.

### Mark 9:5 (NLT)

Peter exclaimed, "Rabbi, it's wonderful for us to be here! Let's make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

### Mark 9:6 (NLT)

He said this because he didn't really know what else to say, for they were all terrified.

- Some believers chase spiritual intensity but avoid spiritual maturity.
- Mountains are for vision. Valleys are for formation.
- Mountaintop moments prepare us; they are not where we live.
- Spiritual moments prepare us; they're not meant to contain us.

## III. The Father Settles The Son's Identity and Our Response

**Mark 9:7 (NLT)**

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my dearly loved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, when they looked around, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus with them.

- Listening means alignment.
- True disciples listen, even when surrender or suffering is required.

**Mark 9:9-10 (NLT)**

As they went back down the mountain, he told them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept it to themselves, but they often asked each other what he meant by "rising from the dead."

**IV. The Disciples Still Misunderstand Greatness**

**Mark 10:32-34 (NLT)**

Taking the twelve disciples aside, Jesus once more began to describe everything that was about to happen to him. "Listen," he said, "we're going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to die and hand him over to the Romans. They will mock him, spit on him, flog him with a whip, and kill him, but after three days he will rise again."

**Mark 10:35-37 (NIV/NLT)**

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask."

"What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

They replied, "When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left."

**Mark 10:38 (NLT)**

But Jesus said to them, "You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I must be baptized with?"

- We want the benefit of Christ's position; Jesus offers membership in His suffering.

**V. Jesus Redefines Greatness**

**Mark 10:41-45 (NLT)**

When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else."

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- In the world, Power rises upward. In the kingdom, Greatness kneels downward.
- Greatness in the kingdom is measured by service, not status.

## **VI. Mark's Unexpected Reversal**

**Mark 15:27** (NIV)

They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left.

- In the Kingdom, the way up is down.

## **VII. The Blindness In The Story**

- Do you see what the disciples could not see?

## **VIII. The Cross: Where Glory and Greatness Unite**

- Glory without sacrificial service becomes pride.
- Sacrificial service without glory becomes exhaustion.
- Sacrificial service with glory becomes greatness.
  
- Do I want recognition more than faithfulness?
- Do I measure ministry by visibility?
- Would I still serve if no one noticed?
- Do I seek the right hand and left, or the towel and basin?
  
- Is my definition of greatness shaped by culture, or by Christ?