



## A Foretaste of Glory

Community Group Study Guide: **Mark 9:1-29** –Week of February 4th, 2024

### 1. A Foretaste of Heaven

6 days from our previous passage, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a mountain. After arriving up the mountain, Jesus is transfigured. His earthly form gave way to His glorious one, and the disciples saw a portion of His heavenly appearance. For the first time, the disciples were seeing Jesus as He was, holy and eternal, unlike anything in the world. Even though Jesus had always appeared like a normal man, He was far from it. In this unique moment, Jesus chooses to share the reality of who He is with those closest to Him. To further emphasize the point, Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus. They had been gone from the earth for hundreds of years, and yet they stood amongst the disciples. Moses and Elijah had come to discuss Jesus's departure; how He would die, be raised again to life, and ascend to heaven. Upon seeing and experiencing the moment, Peter suggests that they should make tents and stay. He made this suggestion out of terror, not knowing what else to do. In response, God the Father causes a cloud to surround them, and He speaks to them. He confirms that Jesus is His beloved Son, and that Jesus should be listened to. After this, the clouds dissipate, and Moses and Elijah are gone. Jesus instructed them to depart and to tell no one of what they had seen until Jesus had risen from the dead.

### 2. Jesus Suffered Hell to Give You Heaven

On their way back to rest of their group, those disciples with Jesus began asking questions regarding what they had just heard. What does it mean for the messiah to rise from the dead? Did not Elijah need to come first? Jesus

## DISCUSSION GOALS

### Head

Jesus came clothed in human flesh. He was like an ordinary man in appearance. However, He was anything from ordinary. Though appearing human, He was God, the exact imprint of His nature. One day all of creation will see Christ in the fullness of glory that He truly has.

### Heart

We are prone to wander. Even though Christ has proven Himself over and over again, we forget our utter dependence on Him. We must remind our hearts to consistently turn to Him, praying that He would continue the work of growing our belief. We know we can trust Him, as He has always proven Himself

### Hands

Pray earnestly to the Lord. Pray for Him to provide greater belief for our unbelieving hearts. Remember that He came, fulfilled all of the law and the prophets, and has provide for our every need.

had to correct their thinking on the matter. They need to understand that the messiah must suffer, He must be treated with contempt. He was not going to come as a glorious and welcomed King but as a sacrificial lamb. Furthermore, Elijah did come in the form of John the Baptist. John likewise was treated as the King he came in advance of, he was treated with contempt and suffered. All of this points to the ultimate purpose of Christ. He was to come as a suffering lamb, who would carry the penalty of Hell. He did this so that we might have His portion, that we might have heaven even though we deserved Hell.

### **3. A Foretaste of Heaven**

Jesus returns to the rest of the disciples to find them arguing with the scribes and the people. The issue for argumentation? The demon possession of a boy, and that the disciples were unable to cast it out. The disciples, who had driven out demons before, were stymied by this one. Jesus asked the father how long the child had been possessed. The father responds by saying that he has been possessed since he was young. The spiritual warfare for this child had been ongoing since he was small. The father pleads with Jesus to heal him if Jesus can. The father shows his need for greater belief, not understanding that Jesus has all authority over this situation. In response, Jesus rebukes him, stating that all things can be possible with belief. The father insightfully acknowledges that he believes, but that he also needs help to believe even more. Jesus responds to this confession by commanding the demon to depart and to never return. After the event in private, the disciples ask why they were unable to cast out the demon. Jesus tells them that they do not understand; that this type of demon can only be cast out by prayer.

## Read Mark 9:1-29

1. How do the events of our last passage (Mark 8:27-38) tie into the events of this passage? What is likely meant by Jesus when He says that some of the disciples will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God in power?
2. What do Peter, James, and John see when Jesus becomes transfigured? What are the disciples (and ourselves) supposed to learn from the appearance of Jesus as described in scripture?
3. What might be the reasons for Moses and Elijah to appear with Jesus? What did they discuss, and why is that important to understand? (Luke 9:30-32) How did Jesus fulfill the promises of both Moses and Elijah? (Malachi 4:4-6)
4. Why do you think the disciples continue to struggle with the understanding that Christ must suffer and die? Why do we in our own thinking find this fact challenging to comprehend?
5. Why were the disciples unable to drive out the evil spirit that possessed the boy? What potentially had changed/what had they forgotten from when they had been casting out demons earlier?
6. Jesus promises that all things are possible for those who believe. The father of the possessed boy responded with "I believe; help my unbelief!" Why is this an important and meaningful statement? How is it applicable in your own life?
7. What is the life application of verse 29? How can this be an important reminder for us as Christians? As parents?