



April 7, 2024

Concerning Jesus - Mark 9 ~Aaron McRae

This Discussion Guide is designed to help you **think more deeply** about the sermon and **engage with others** through thoughtful conversation, biblical exploration and **allow God to work** in your life as you apply what you discover.

➤ CONVERSATION STARTER

What is the most inspiring thing you have ever seen with your own eyes?

➤ EXPLORATION

Over the past several weeks we have been studying the book of Mark together, looking at what the bible has to say about Jesus. Mark chapter nine begins with an unusual story that gives us a beautiful glimpse of who Jesus is.

Mark 9:2-3 (From your bible, read aloud)

Jesus chose three of his disciples to witness his transfiguration. The word transfiguration can also mean transformed or changed – it is where we get the word metamorphosis. This word is only used four times in the New Testament (Mark 9:2, Matthew 17:2, Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 3:18).

Mark 9:4 (From your bible, read aloud)

The appearance of Elijah and Moses is significant. They are both important in the establishment of God's people.

Elijah was a prophet who declared that salvation would one day come. He led the people to turn away from idolatry and he called them back to God.

Moses was the one that God chose to lead the people out of slavery and to establish their identity as a holy nation. In Exodus 24, Moses had such a powerful encounter with God that his face reflected the glory of God.

Both Elijah and Moses prepared God's people for what Jesus was about to accomplish.

How do you imagine the disciples would have reacted to this encounter?

Mark 9:5-6 (From your bible, read aloud)

Rather than patiently watching and waiting for Jesus to instruct them, Peter reacts impulsively and wants to do something to capture the moment. His offer to build three shelters may have been because at that time, people interacted with God in specific places like a temple or a tabernacle.

Mark 9:7 (From your bible, read aloud)

God identifies Jesus as his beloved son, a status that is unequalled. God also **commands** them to listen to Jesus. This was not a time for them to ask questions, this was a time for them to listen and to pay careful attention to everything Jesus was teaching.

Mark 9:8-10 (From your bible, read aloud)

Just as suddenly as the heavenly guests appeared, they disappeared. Jesus ordered them to keep quiet

about what they had witnessed. This was not the first time Jesus told them that he would rise from the dead, but the disciples still didn't understand what he meant.

What is one thing about Jesus that you still have questions about?

The disciples witnessed a scene that provided new revelation about who Jesus is. The presence of Elijah brings recognition that Jesus is the true and better prophet. The appearance of Moses demonstrates that he is endorsing Jesus as the one he had promised who would truly deliver God's people. The voice of God seals the deal – Jesus is God's plan!

The transformation of Jesus provides a sneak peek into eternity. The glory of Jesus is unequalled by any other. It is also an invitation to our transformation that will come when we enter eternity. When we keep an eternal perspective we see why the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus was necessary.

John 1:14 (From your bible, read aloud)

Imagine yourself standing face to face with Jesus, what is the expression on his face as he looks at you?

The picture of the transfiguration of Jesus reminds us of God's transforming power.

"Jesus: Jesus is the glory of God in human form!"
~Tim Keller

Jesus was transformed to display his glory. We are also called to be transformed. The way we are transformed comes from our relationship with Jesus.

Renewing our minds

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2

Contemplating the Lord's Glory

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." 2 Corinthians 3:18

What is one thing you can do this week to open yourself up to the transforming work of God?

Many years after the transfiguration of Christ, Peter reflected on the experience he and the other disciples had as they watched this powerful display of God's glory.

"For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain." 2 Peter 1:16-18

Why do you think it was important for Peter to write about this so long after it happened?

➤ TAKE AWAY

The story of Jesus' transfiguration is not something that is easy to understand and yet it happened so we could better understand who Jesus is.

There are many things we face in life that are difficult to understand. When that happens, we can trust that God will guide us.

Read / Remember – go to God's word to discover and who Jesus is. Then regularly take time to remember how his life makes all the difference for us.

Wait / Trust – When waiting is difficult, we can still trust that God is good and that he will make things clear to us when we put our trust in him.

What circumstances you are facing that you don't understand and want God's direction to help you navigate?

Pray together, asking God to remind you who he is and who he has called you to be. Invite him to transform you as you put your trust in him. Be ready to share your experience with the group next week.