



Sermon Series: Mark: Living Everyday With Jesus

Sermon Title: King on the Mountain

Date: 1/11/2026

Mark 9:2–13

Big Idea: Jesus' glory gives us courage to follow Him when the path is costly.

Mark 9:2–13 comes immediately after Jesus' hard teaching about suffering, self-denial, and the cross. That message likely left the disciples unsettled, confused, and questioning whether the cost was truly worth it. What they needed was not a new command, but a clearer vision of who Jesus truly is. In the Transfiguration, Jesus gives them that by allowing them to see His glory.

This mysterious moment reveals why Jesus is worth following even when obedience is difficult. The passage unfolds through three movements that help us see Jesus more clearly.

1. The Place of His Glory

Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a high mountain. This setting is important. When we look at where Peter previously confessed Jesus as the Messiah, the geography provides strong evidence that this occurred on Mount Hermon. The region surrounding Caesarea Philippi and Mount Hermon was associated with pagan worship and long-standing spiritual darkness. It was known as a place marked by idolatry and rebellion against God.

By leading His disciples to this location and revealing His glory there, Jesus is making a statement. He is not retreating from darkness; He is confronting it. He reveals His glory on ground long identified with defiance, showing that no territory, power, or spiritual stronghold stands beyond His authority. The same Jesus who calls His followers to take up their cross is the One whose glory outshines every power of darkness. The Transfiguration reveals that the suffering to come is not defeat, but part of God's larger plan to reclaim what is broken and to establish Christ's rule over all things.

For the disciples, this moment reframes what they have just heard about suffering. The path of obedience may be costly, but it belongs to the victorious Son of God.

2. The Proof of His Identity

As Jesus is transfigured, His appearance is radically changed. His dazzling brightness reveals His true divine nature. What the disciples normally see veiled in humanity is briefly unveiled. This moment confirms that Jesus is not simply a teacher or prophet, but the eternal Son of God.

Then Moses and Elijah appear and speak with Him. Together they represent the Law and the Prophets, the whole story of God's revelation up to that point. Their presence testifies that everything God has spoken before finds its fulfillment in Jesus. Luke's Gospel adds that they spoke with Him about His coming suffering, death, and resurrection. Even in glory, the conversation centers on the cross.

Peter, overwhelmed, suggests building shelters for all three. His response, though sincere, places Jesus alongside Moses and Elijah rather than above them. At this moment, God the Father intervenes. The cloud of His presence descends, and His voice declares Jesus' unique identity and issues a command: "Listen to Him." This settles the question of authority. Jesus is not one voice among many. He is the Son. He alone has final authority. The Father directs the disciples away from comparison and confusion and toward submission and trust.

3. The Call of His Authority

When the cloud lifts, Moses and Elijah are gone. Only Jesus remains. The scene itself becomes the message: Jesus stands alone. His authority is unmatched. His words are not suggestions but commands that carry divine weight. The glimpse of glory is not meant to remove the cross from their future but to prepare them for it. The Transfiguration is not an escape from suffering; it is fuel for faithfulness. It assures them that the path of rejection and sacrifice is not failure, but the road to victory.

The disciples are still confused, especially about the resurrection. Jesus patiently explains that suffering has always been part of God's redemptive plan, even pointing to John the Baptist as the promised forerunner who suffered before Him. The glory they witnessed guarantees that suffering will not have the final word.

For believers today, this passage teaches that we do not follow Jesus blindly. We follow the Lord of glory. His revealed identity gives courage for costly obedience. The Jesus who shines in divine glory is the same Jesus who walks with His people through hardship. His authority is secure. His promises are trustworthy. And the road He calls us to walk, though difficult, leads to life.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it important for the disciples to see Jesus' glory after hearing about suffering and the cross?
2. What does the setting of the Transfiguration teach us about Jesus' authority over darkness and opposition?
3. Why is the Father's command "Listen to Him" so central to this passage?
4. How does the Transfiguration help us trust Jesus when obedience becomes difficult?
5. Where might Jesus be calling you to follow Him more faithfully right now?