

Mark 9:1-29 –6 June 2021

“Glimpsing Our Future”

Introduction

- *Jesus is travelling for 3 years teaching (last wk of earthly life begins in Mark 11)
- *Mark 9 is His last week in northern Israel (Galilee)
- *Mark 10 His spends time in Perea east of the Jordan
- *In Mark 8 Jesus looked for their faith to believe that He is the Christ – Peter had his great confession of faith
- *Jesus has begun to reveal His true mission to die
 - *Not to be the conqueror of Rome...but to die
 - *He’s really changing their view of the future
- *Now in Mark 9 Jesus begins to focus their attention on the reality of what’s ahead for them
 - *Read I Cor 13:12-13
 - *As they get a true view of what’s ahead, they’ll be challenged to live by faith, hope and love

Today, we see our 3 priorities for Christian growth

1st priority of Christian growth is love. Keep Jesus the center focus and preeminent (Vs 1-10)

Read Vs 1

1. The power of the Kingdom of God will be shown to 3 disciples here at the “transfiguration”
 - a. Read Matt 16:28 – The focus is Jesus
2. Kingdom of God isn’t a place, it’s a state of being
 - a. Read Luke 17:20-21 – “among you”

Read Vs 2-3

1. This is metamorphosized – changed
2. The glory of eternal life came shining thru the temporary shell of humanity

Read Vs 4

1. Can only speculate what they’re talking about
2. Why these two men?
 - a. Represents all those in the kingdom
 - i. Those that died (Moses)
 - ii. Those that will be raptured (Elijah)

- b. Represents the whole OT
 - i. The Law (Moses)
 - ii. The prophets (Elijah)
 - c. Are they the 2 Witnesses of Revelation 11?
3. What they DEFINETLY do for us is confirm that there's life in the Kingdom of God
- a. There will be purpose & meaning
 - b. There will be knowledge & shiny goodness

Read Vs 5-6

- 1. Notice that Peter clearly recognizes them
 - a. We'll recognize what happening in heaven
 - b. We won't be dumber later than we are now
- 2. Do you ever have those time when you talk, but you shouldn't have?
- 3. Peter in fear/wonder mistakenly equates Elijah & Moses w/ Jesus

Read Vs 7-8

- 1. God corrects the situation w/ focus on Jesus
- 2. We don't always have to talk, but hear Jesus

3. Peter wasn't fully hearing Jesus about dying
 - a. What Jesus was saying in Mark 8 about suffering & dying is true and will come to pass
 - b. We need to work on 'hearing' Jesus

Read Vs 9-10

1. Still in disbelief about dying and rising again
2. There're *real* things that make Jesus the Christ
 - a. They didn't believe who He fully was or what His mission fully was
 - b. We cannot make up our own truth about who the Christ is or who Jesus is
3. There's this teaching about the Universal Christ
 - a. "Jesus is a person whose example we can follow. Christ is a cosmic life principle in which all beings participate."
 - b. Jesus died, yes & He rose from the dead.
 - i. What will you do with that?
 - ii. You can't ignore this man that had the power to come back from the dead, b/c He is God

2nd priority of Christian growth is hope. The 2nd Coming is when Jesus restores all things (Vs 11-13)

Read Vs 11

1. The question is from (Read) Mal 4:5-6
2. Notice Elijah comes before the great Day of the Lord

Read Vs 12a

1. Yes Elijah will come 1st before Jesus the Christ
2. Seems Elijah will be 1 of 2 Witnesses spoken of in Rev 11 that come before Jesus' 2nd coming?

Read Vs 12b

1. Jesus points out that the OT also says that “the Son of Man must suffer many things”
2. Jesus’ drawing their attention to the 1st coming

Read Vs 13

1. “Elijah is indeed come”
2. Read Matt 11:14 – John came in spirit/power of Elijah for Jesus 1st Coming
3. That Jesus won’t restore all things now, isn’t a problem – have HOPE, that day is yet coming

3rd priority of Christian growth is faith. Spend our time growing in faith & discipline (Vs 14-29)

Read Vs 14-18

1. Jesus' other 9 disciples couldn't deal w/ demon

Read Vs 19

1. The key here is faith in Jesus' power
 - a. "Bring him to Me"
 - b. In Mark 9:38 – someone is casting out devils "in Jesus' name" & it's working
2. If you have faith even just as small as a grain of mustard seed it will work
 - a. Lots of faith in the wrong thing won't work
 - b. Little faith in the right thing works all times

Read Vs 20-24

1. This should be the cry of each one of us
2. I believe you can Jesus, but I also believe that I need you to help me **EVEN IN THAT.**

Read Vs 25-27

1. Just as the disciples (& those around), we have experiences that grow our faith.
2. We're not as strong in believing the Word of God today as we will be tomorrow.
 - a. The Lord will put us thru the fire to help us trust Him more & more

Read Vs 28-29

1. We read in Eph 6:12 that there seem to be ranks of demons – some harder to deal w/ than others
2. The authority that Jesus had given them to cast out demons in Mar 3:14-15 was effective only if exercised by faith in Jesus' power
3. Even then faith must be cultivated through spiritual discipline and devotion
 - a. Prayer & fasting
 - b. These are used not primarily to make a needed change in a circumstance, but to make a needed change in you – it's a growth process

Conclusion – Jesus is now giving them (& us) a glimpse of our future. He said in (Read) John 15:15, we're not His servants, we're His friends. There are goals we should be growing towards as Christians.

1. **Grow in Love: Keep Jesus the center focus and preeminent**
 - a. Jesus isn't just a good man on par w/ other good men...He's God
 - b. Is your Christianity all about your Church or is it all about Jesus
2. **Grow in Hope: The 2nd Coming is when Jesus will restore all things**
 - a. Even when we can't figure out even detail of God's future plan, have hope that He has it!
 - b. God's timing is perfect & it's under control
3. **Grow in Faith: Spend our time in spiritual disciplines like studying the Word, fasting & prayer**
 - a. There are great things God would have for you to accomplish in this life, but it takes a ride of faith to get there!

Make we be able to look at each other & say as Paul said to the Thessalonians (Read I Thes 1:3)