

Mountaintops

Mark 9

Pray

we've all seen amazing things we'll never forget like standing on the rim of the Grand Canyon

- or maybe it was watching our child take their first steps
- Seeing the Northern Lights
- Hiking inside an ice cave in Alaska
 - **but nothing on Earth could have prepared the disciples**
 - **for what they saw when Jesus took them to the mountain top**

it should have left them speechless but one of them spoke anyway

- have you ever said the wrong thing at the wrong time
 - I have to admit I've had my share of bloopers

There are only a few months away until Jesus would go to the cross

- To die for the sins of the world

Jesus is preparing His disciples

- Revealing His (Deity) to them
 - And trying to Share His purpose & plan why He came
 - What His mission was

1 And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

Jesus makes a statement to his disciples that some of them aren't going to die

- until they see the kingdom of God present with power

what does that even mean? well you have to keep reading

- because in the next few verses Jesus is going to take three of his disciples
 - up onto a mountain where he will be transfigured in front of them
 - and they will have the unique opportunity to get a glimpse
 - of the coming kingdom of God and the glory of Jesus

the Transfiguration was a sneak peek of what is to come for all of humanity

- when Christ returns one day as king of kings and Lord of lords

it's sort of like what we see when we go to the movies

- they play trailers of the upcoming films
 - and a lot of times the best bits are in the trailer.
- this is sort of like a mega trailer for The Return of Christ
 - I'm giving you a glimpse of what is coming

So verse 1 is the promise; verse 2 is the fulfillment of the promise.

- Some of you aren't going to taste death until you see the kingdom of God present
 - And verse 2, he is transfigured before them.

at first glance, you think that Jesus might be talking about his second coming.

- But He's talking about a preview of His glory & His power

² Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them.

Jesus took Peter, James, and John

- Why these 3? We don't know exactly why
 - The 3 amigos
 - The inner three
 - They were the first disciples called
 - Fishermen = sons of thunder
 - Most likely to get into trouble: Kept them close to keep an eye on them

I think Jesus brought these 3 guys with Him to Encourage & Strengthen them

- To prepare them for what they would go through for their faith in Jesus
 - Peter: Crucified Upside down
 - James: Sawn in half, long ways
 - John: Burned by Nero in boiling oil & survived & sent to Island Patmos

Jesus led Peter, James, and John up a high mountain

It is so important that were led by Jesus

- And following Him
 - He is the best tour guide you can have in life

That would be so awesome going on a hike/camping retreat with Jesus

- Jesus could name everything & know everything around you

Luke 9:28 "Went up on the mountain to pray"

I love how the disciples got alone with Jesus by themselves

- Its so important for us to get alone with Jesus
 - To talk with Him (Pray)

Transfigured: Greek: *metemorpho*

- Means: He was *Metamorphosized before them* changed from the inside out
 - A metamorphosis is more than a change of appearance;
 - it's a change of form.

It's like when a caterpillar is in a cocoon and gets "transfigured" into a butterfly.

So, the way I like to look at it is that Jesus is breaking the cocoon of the Son of Man

- and they're seeing him in that butterfly state as the Son of God in glory,
 - like a postresurrected body, a preview of his postresurrected form.

Jesus is giving to Peter James and John a glimpse of Glory, a taste of heaven

- we could call it a preview of Coming Attractions

Now, a lot of people read this and go, "Man, what a miracle to behold—Jesus glowing."

- But The miracle isn't that Jesus was glowing at this time;
 - the miracle is that Jesus wasn't glowing the rest of the time.
 - remember he was God walking Among Us
- Jesus never ceased to be God he always was God
 - but he sort of restrained That Glory from showing

Like the Christmas song we sing: **Hark the herald angels sing**

- "Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail incarnate Deity."
 - Jesus was veiled in flesh, and the veil is opened at this time,
 - and Peter, James, and John get the preview, the sneak preview,
 - the trailer to the coming movie to see him glorified.

The normal everyday appearance of Jesus was just a normal man

- A Carpenter

What happened was Jesus' Glory was no longer hidden from the disciples

- The Glory of God was shining out of Jesus
 - They Saw the Glory of God as Jesus was transfigured in there sight

I think this was what John was talking about in his gospel **John 1:14** "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

³ His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.

Matthew 17:2 "His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light."

- Have you ever looked into the sun?
 - It's blinding!

Luke 9:29 "As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening."

- This would be awesome to see Jesus Transfigured!

This word **Transfigured** is spoken of 3 times in the Bible

- Once here of Jesus
- Twice used of us; **Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 3:18**

Roman 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

When Paul says to be transformed by the renewing of your mind

- He is talking about how God can change us
 - He's in the business of Transforming life's
 - That's what you see when people come to Jesus

2 Corinthians 5:17 “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new”

I have personally experienced this transformation myself

- It is an absolute miracle
 - Jesus is the only one who can transform lives

How are we Transformed?

2 Corinthians 3:18 “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord (we who behold Jesus), are being **transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

We are transformed by beholding Jesus

- What does it mean to behold Jesus?
 - To Behold means: to look at or see something
 - Means to hangout and fellowship with Jesus
 - By His Word
 - **Hebrews 4:12** “The Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any 2 edged sword.”
 - By Prayer

You are who you hangout with

- And the more you hangout with Jesus
 - The more your going to be like Him
 - He changes you from the inside out
 - By the Holy Spirit

4 And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.

Who are Elijah and Moses?

Both Mountain Men

- Moses
 - Shepherd
 - Saw a burning bush on a mountain
 - God talks to him saying “I am who I am”
 - Go deliver the nation of Israel out of Egypt
- Elijah
 - Challenged the prophets of Bal on a mountain
 - Called down Fire from heaven
 - Revealed to them that his God was the true God

Both left this earth in interesting ways

- Moses
 - The Lord buried him
- Elijah
 - Taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire

Both represented the Old Testament

- Moses
 - Represented The Law
 - Received “10 Commandments” mount Sinai
 - Moses wrote the first 5 books of the Bible
 - Torah or Pentateuch: *Penta = 5; teuch = scroll*
- Elijah
 - Represented The Prophets
 - One of the Greatest prophets

Here we see Jesus up on the mountain with the Law & Prophets

• Its interesting because Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law & Prophets
It's as if the law and the prophets are bringing testimony to Jesus the Messiah.

Jesus said in **Matthew 5:17** “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

- Law
 - Points us to Jesus,
 - Show us our need for a savior
- Prophets
 - Pointed to the messiah coming
 - Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies

What were Elijah, Moses, and Jesus talking about?

- Talked about Jesus going to the cross
 - Encouraging Jesus

Luke 9:31 “spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.”

I love how it says they were talking with Jesus

Do we talk with Jesus throughout the day?

- It's so important to be talking to Jesus all day every day

Prayer is how we talk to God to get His Will done

The Bible tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to “pray without ceasing.”

- Jesus Prayed all the time!

Charles Spurgeon said, “Let your heart communicate with Jesus while your hands are busy with the world.”

I've heard a lot of people say there to busy to pray?

- If you are too busy to pray

You're busier than God wants you to be!

I think it is amazing how the disciples knew it was Moses and Elijah.

- I don't think they were wearing name tags, you know. Hi, I'm Moses. I'm Elijah.
 - These men had never seen Elijah and Moses before.

These men had died hundreds, if not thousands of years before the time of the disciples.

- Yet, they knew that it was Moses and Elijah.

Sometimes people wonder if we're going to know each other in heaven.

- we know we won't look exactly like we do right now. Something like it,
 - but I hope we look a little bit better than we do right now.

We wonder If we're going to recognize each other.

- Well, of course you'll recognize other people in heaven.
 - they recognize Moses and Elijah and they never seen him before.

Charles Spurgeon said one time talking about this, he said, "do you think you're going to be more dumb in heaven than we are here on earth? Of course, you're going to know other people." It's going to be so great in heaven. We're going to remember everybody's name

- Isn't that fantastic?

now we will see one of these blooper instances where, Peter puts his foot in his mouth.

⁵Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" —

Peter is like this is Awesome Jesus!

- Lets just stay here forever and ever!

It is good for us to spend time with Jesus and at church

- But we need to share our experience with him with others
 - We have all eternity to spend with Jesus & Christian friends in heaven
 - We shouldn't be Jealous with our tickets into heaven
 - We need to share it

We were NOT saved to just sit around

- Sing Songs
- Pray
- Read your Bible
 - Jesus has a mission for us while we are on this earth

In **Matthew 17:4** Peter said, "Lord, It is good for us to be here; **if You wish**, let us make three tabernacles"

I love how Peter asks Jesus, "**If You wish**",

- Is it your will Jesus?
- Do you want me to do this Jesus?

We should always be asking Jesus **“If You wish”!** is it your will?

This could save us a lot of trouble

- If we would ask Jesus for His will first

Jesus always prayed for God's will to be done in His life

- Remember before He went to the cross
 - Jesus said in Luke 22:42 **“Father, if it is your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”**

That's how we should pray also **“Not my will, But Yours, be done.”**

- We should always want God's will to be done
 - B/c God knows what is best

But verse 6 kind of explains what's happening:

⁶because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid.

when you don't know what to say don't say anything there's an old proverb

- not a Biblical one but it has some truth which says **its better to be silent**
 - **and thought a fool than to open your mouth and dispel all doubt**

have you ever said something you wish you could take back

Peter says it's good we are here this is blessing we love hanging out

- with you and Moses and Elijah basking in your glory
 - and let's forget all this crazy talk about going to Jerusalem and dying
 - let's stay here and now Peter gets a rebuke not from Jesus
 - but from the Father in heaven look at verse 7

⁷And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!”

There are so many voices in the world that you can **hear**

- That are trying to get your attention
 - And I love how God says = **HEAR JESUS**

This is a huge challenge for us in the days we live

- There are **so many voices that we hear** each day trying to get our attention
 - Radio & Music
 - Internet
 - Advertisements: 300-700 a day
 - TV

- Work
- Friends
- Devil

We live in such a fast pace way of life

- We are so busy doing so many things
 - It is difficult **to hear** from Jesus
 - If we don't make Him a priority #1

If we say, I am too busy to spend time with Jesus

- **We are busier than God wants us to be**

Jesus was a busy Man!

- Super Servant
 - He always spent time with His Father!

God says listen to Jesus

- **Hear** what My Son has to say!
 - Above all other voices
 - Listen to Jesus

Pie Chart Illustration

I was thinking if you could track all the voices that you hear in a day

- And put it in a pie chart with %
 - How much would we hear from Jesus?

When we have questions about life

- We need to go to Jesus
 - Hear what He has to say

That is why it is so important to get in Gods Word every day

- So we can hear from Jesus
 - And know His will

Jesus said **Luke 11:28** "Blessed are those who **hear** the word of God and keep it!"

Romans 10:17 "Faith comes by **hearing**, and **hearing** by the word of God."

Matthew, Mark, Luke & Revelation says, "He who has ears to **hear**, let him **hear**."

There are so many ways that we can Hear from Jesus

- Prayer "Talking with Jesus"
- Read our Bibles
- Listen to Music about Him
- Fellowship with other Christians

- Go to Church: Listen to Sermons

It's so important that we HEAR the VOICE of JESUS above all other voices

Philippians 2:9 says the name of Jesus is the “Name which is above every name.”

Acts 4:12 “there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Revelation 19:16 says Jesus is the “KING OF KINGS AND THE LORD OF LORDS.”

Not only do we need to hear from Jesus

- But we need to do what He says
 - He is our King

James 1:22-25 “be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; **24** for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. **25** But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

the best way to have a greater revelation of Jesus is to read His word

- because it's in these pages that he reveals himself to us
 - and I pray that today with everything going on
 - that you would have a clear focus upon Jesus
 - that you would recognize him for who he is
 - that you would hear what he reveals through his word

⁸ Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus with themselves.

Moses and Elijah vanished and the only one that they saw was Jesus

- I love that they didn't see anybody but they are focused Upon Jesus

People might disappear in your life or leave you

- But Jesus will always be with you

Share Gospel & Pray