

The Gospel of Mark – It's already happening

Mark 9:1-32 May 28th, 2026

*There was more to Jesus than they ever could have imagined.
There was more in motion than they were aware of.*

PRESENT WITH POWER

Dynamis: Strength, power, ability.

Power of any and all kinds that comes from within and is naturally possessed.

Dynamis

Matthew 13:54 When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works?"

Trivial debates attempting to stump Jesus with an intellectual argument?!
That is one of the most unintelligent things you could do.

Matthew 22:29 Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God."

**You haven't seen anything yet!
De-commonize Jesus!!!**

Mount Hermon – Just north of Caesarea Philippi, 9,000' above sea level, gets snow, and would have been quite the hike. (PETER – JAMES – JOHN)

Setting the scene: Long hike, end of the day, drowsy, and falling asleep.
For the full insight, can I interject other gospel statements into it as we go?

Mark 9:2-13

Who Jesus took
What they saw
What they heard

The power and glory of God Jesus was shining through.

Transfigured: transformed, changed into another form, MEROMORPHOSE.

Like the caterpillar into a butterfly – nothing new, just rearranged.

Not reflecting but emanating radiating light.
Elijah & Moses were there, but only Jesus was shining.
We get sidetracked by the two guys and miss the glory of Christ.

Divinity, glory, affirmation from heaven.
Cloud on Mount Sani – Voice that shook the ground

THE CLOUD ENVELOPS THEM

- This is My Son – Confirmation of divinity, that Jesus is God!
- HEAR HIM - that Jesus would have;
 - the preeminent voice (Superior),
 - the voice of authority,
 - the voice of clarity,
 - the voice of priority.

SEEK THE WISDOM, WILL, AND WORD OF CHRIST above all others.
It's not the loudest, it's the clearest.

Jesus' Unexpected Guests

- **Moses**, the law
- **Elijah** the prophet
- **Jesus** – not the law, not the prophet, the messiah Son of God. On an entirely different and altogether higher level. (Not like Mose and Elijah)

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.

Everything that the sacrificial system pointed to was fulfilled in Christ
Every messianic prophecy was fulfilled.

Every requirement and expectation, Jesus was the fulfillment.

RISING FROM THE DEAD? What parable is this?

(10) questioning what rising from the dead meant.

HEAR HIM! What Jesus shared, is what was missed.

You and I would have been right there alongside Peter, James, and John.
Bewildered by this must-be-parable.

G. Cambell Morgan

- ***How could someone build a kingdom by dying?***
- ***How do you gain a victory by being defeated?***
- ***How do you get a crown by being nailed to a cross?***

Jesus was Kingly to the end and will be for all of eternity... no one takes My life.

John 10:18 “No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

1 Peter 1 living hope *through the* (not death but the *resurrection*) God of the living!!!

Back to our passage... like the distant thunder of an approaching storm we hear of His power as Jesus talks about the resurrection, not the death.

Jesus' focus was not on the loss of life but the conquering of death.

They focused on what they want to know...

Why does Elijah have to come first?

(11) Q&A time – why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?

Jesus affirms the scribes' claim

- Elijah is coming first
- Drawing from a prophecy given in the Book of Malachi 4:5
- (2 reasons) By the first century, it was believed and expected that Elijah would return, partially based upon *Malachi 4:5* as well as the fact that Elijah did not die in the normal sense (*2 Kings 2:11*)
 1. Eliah would physically return
 2. He would restore Israel spiritually
 3. Then the Messiah would arrive

John the Baptist:

John 1:21 John denies reincarnation. (Are you Elijah?)

Luke 1:17 in the spirit and power of Elijah – repentance towards righteousness. (reminds me of someone, same temperament, integrity, grit, clarity)

PERSON VS. PERSONALITY

John fulfilled Elijah's prophetic role:

- Calling Israel to repent
- Confronting corrupt leaders (Herod and Herodias)
- Preparing the way for the Messiah
- Suffering rejection

There was more to Jesus than they ever could have imagined.

There was more in motion than they were aware of.

We see the Kingdom rolling in with might and glory

Like a foreign kingdom marching upon an enemy's land, the Kingdom of God, invading a fallen and sinful world. **It's already in motion, it's happening.**

When? Already and right now.

Titus 2:11-13 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

MASSIVE CHANGE IN SCENERY

We move from revelation to confrontation. From glorious light to looming darkness.

Disputing Scribes
Defeated Disciples
Demon-possessed Boy
Desperate father

MARK 9:14-18

Disputing Scribes
Defeated Disciples

Like backing lions into their cages... Jesus stops the mouths of the Scribes, then deals with the demon-possessed boy, and the drought of faith.

Disputing: Hecklers, dispute, belittle, cause to look foolish

Debate = an attempt to confound or perplex Jesus' disciples.

College campuses or even current co-workers will debate and try to stump us or make our faith seem silly.

Defeated Disciples

Men who had been boldly preaching the Kingdom, seeing miracles done through their own ministry... seem to have gotten used to it. By Jesus response (prayer and fasting) they were not living in the power that comes through prayer and fasting.

Mark 9:19-29

Demon in Worship
Demon Couch

Help my unbelief = I have some, but not enough. Can you fill the gaps for me?

Something we do not always recognize is that faith ebbs and flows. Like the water in the river that will rise and fall with the season, our faith has a tendency to increase and decrease.

What causes the water to rise? Prayer and fasting.

Half faith should not hide in shame but ask of Christ for more

PRAYER & FASTING

Dim prayer, you dim power.

Fasting is like jump-starting your dead battery.

- Repentance – Nineva
- Wisdom – Moses, Ezra's direction & protection, Daniel 10, Acts 14
- Liberation – Demonic meddling (this boy)

"Faith in a prayer-hearing God will make a prayer-loving Christian" – Andrew Muray

How do you approach God? What shocks you?

I am shocked when God says no, not when He says yes.

Glory on the Mountain - Power over the Darkness

CONCLUSION

(WHY THOSE THREE?)

God has His reasons, but basically... because that is what God had for those guys. Sometimes you are missing what God has for you because you are looking at what God has for others. Doves were flying around right behind us.

CONTRIBUTION

What am I contributing to my generation? (Defeated or Victorious Language)
FAITHLESS GENERATION... as a whole. The whole is made up of the "us."
What do you and I contribute to now?

PRAY!!!

A true test of our spiritual walk is our prayer life.

Powerful faith comes from persistent prayers

There is the act of praying and then there is the experience of praying...

Tradition vs. soul cry

- Evangelize without prayer
- Preach without prayer
- Work without prayer
- Family without prayer
- Friends without prayer
- Marriage without prayer

Coasting will kill your faith – like a low flowing river.

STAY IN AWE OF GOD!!!

There was more to Jesus than they ever could have imagined.

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1999 Mercy Me – I Can Only Imagine

Will I stand in your presence, or to my knees will I fall?

Will I sing hallelujah, will I be able to speak at all?

I can only imagine.

Glory on the Mountain

Power over the Darkness

Steps out of glory on high and into our world of darkness to set people free

LORD, HELP MY UNBELIEF