

Jesus Shows His Glory

Mark 9:1-13

July 21, 2013

Introduction

So far in Mark, Peter has declared that Jesus is the Messiah, and with that confession, he expects that the Kingdom of God to immediately take place. He expects Jesus to establish His Kingdom and drive out Rome and establish an everlasting blessing for the Jews. That dream shatters when Jesus tells them that He has to suffer and die. This is beyond their understanding and expectations.

The declaration of Jesus Christ as the Messiah is the pinnacle of the gospel of Mark. Everything Jesus says and does reveal Him as the Son of God. From the confession to the cross, Jesus reveals His plan for the salvation of all people; however, there is resistance to that idea because His plan does not fit their theology. Several times, we have seen Jesus tell the disciples not to tell anyone about what they have seen, heard, or experienced. He does not want the people to think Him as a miracle worker because that is not His purpose. His purpose is to suffer in the hands of His people and to be placed on the cross for His death. He is to be buried for three days and rise again. The message of the cross has not happened. They only have half of the message.

Peter and the disciples have a hard time dealing with His message. Peter rebukes Him and tells Him how to be a Messiah. Jesus calls Peter, Satan, which definitely thumps Peter into silence. He then tells the disciples that if they want to be His follower, then they have to deny themselves, take up the cross and follow Him. He calls them to be ashamed of themselves (as a result of the conviction of the Holy Spirit) and follow Him. If anyone refuses to follow Him, then He will be ashamed of them and judge them accordingly.

Because Jesus is God, He knows what is in their hearts and minds and understands their confusion concerning His plan. What He does then is remarkable and wonderful. He wants to anchor their confidence in glory by giving them a foretaste of that glory. He wants them to understand that before they experience that glory, they will suffer.

Mark 9:1 *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."*

What does He mean by this statement? Is He talking about His Second Coming? If so, then His prediction about them not dying is false because none of the disciples are alive today. Is He talking about His death and resurrection? After all, this is when they see Jesus in His power. No. He is giving them a prophecy that takes place in six days. He is telling them so that they will understand that they can trust what He says entirely. He is talking about His Transfiguration.

Three men witness this event and it changes their lives completely.

John 1:14 *And 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.*

1 John 1:1 *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life--*

2 Peter 1:16-18 *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.*

This is where we will see our Lord and Savior reveal Himself to us!

Mark 9:2-13 *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. 3 His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them. 4 And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. 5 Then 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"-- 6 because he did not know what to say, for they were*

greatly afraid. **7** And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" **8** Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus with themselves. **9** Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead. **10** So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant. **11** And they asked Him, saying, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" **12** Then He answered and told them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and restores all things. And how is it written concerning the Son of Man, that He must suffer many things and be treated with contempt? **13** But I say to you that Elijah has also come, and they did to him whatever they wished, as it is written of him."

I. Transfiguration of Christ (2-4)

Note: This is the one of the most important event in Jesus' life (other than His death and resurrection).

- After six days

Luke 9:28 Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

- Is this a contradiction?
- NO—Luke included day of promise, six days, then day of fulfillment = 8 days
- Common counting of days in Scripture
- Peter, James, and John
 - Jesus' most intimate friends
 - Why did He take three?

Deuteronomy 19:15 One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.

Matthew 18:16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

- In Bible, having 2 – 3 witnesses establishes truth
- Witness what truth?
 - See the King in His glory
 - Move from faith to sight
 - Jesus did this to give them a taste of glory that follows after suffering
 - This is the visible revelation of the nature of Christ
- High mountain
 - Not at Mount Tabor (tradition), but probably at Mt Hermon
- Transfiguration
 - Jesus went there to pray (**Luke 9:28**)
 - Transfigured— Gk *metamorphoo*
 - Morphe = body; meta = change—change of body
 - Jesus' nature did not change but His outward appearance
 - He was shining—bright light
 - Consider OT—Shekinah Glory

Exodus 40:34-35 Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. **35** And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

1 Kings 8:10-12 And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, **11** so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord. **12** Then Solomon spoke: "The Lord said He would dwell in the dark cloud.

- Even though God is invisible, He appears as light, making Himself visible
- Jesus is God—however nobody could see Him as God by looking at Him as a person

Hebrews 1:3 who being the brightness of His glory

Revelation 1:16 His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

- This is a visible experience—this did not happen in the disciples' mind
- The disciples knew the Shekinah Glory of the Lord from Scripture
- Elijah and Moses
 - Are they really Elijah and Moses? Yes!
 - Why Moses and Elijah?
 - Moses—Lawgiver, Elijah—greatest prophet—in Jewish mind, they were greatest men in Scripture
 - Talking to Jesus—about what?

Luke 9:31 appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

- They were talking about His death
- Two witnesses concerning the death of Christ (for the disciples)

II. Ignorance of Peter (5-10)

- Peter talks
 - You'd think he would keep his mouth shut after Jesus' rebuke
 - Rabbi—Matthew-Lord; Luke-Master==very respectful
 - It is good to be here—awed by this situation
- Three tabernacles
 - What is going on? Why is he saying this?
 - He did not know what to say!
 - He says this because he still has problems with the idea that Jesus has to suffer and die
 - He is still hinting at Jesus to establish the Kingdom without suffering
- God's correction
 - The third witness! Father Himself
 - Cloud overshadowed them
 - Father's command—Listen to My beloved Son, whom I'm well-pleased
 - Listen to My Son as He talks about His suffering and death and resurrection. Pay attention!
- Jesus alone
 - The Kingdom is not yet—the cross must take place first
- The walk back
 - Jesus commands them not to tell anyone about this experience until the resurrection
 - Why?
 - Identity of Jesus as Messiah and Son of God is not the full gospel
 - He must experience the cross and die
 - He must be buried and in three days rise again
 - If they (disciples) have told people about what they have seen (remember the requirement of three witnesses), then the people would have tried to force Jesus as King once more
 - They kept silent—they obeyed!

Luke 9:36 When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen.

III. Coming of Elijah (11-13)

- Elijah must come first
 - Taught in OT that before the Messiah comes, then the forerunner, the herald is to come
 - To get the people ready to receive their king!

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me.

Isaiah 40:3 *The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."*

- The Jews expected Elijah to come before the Messiah
- Disciples were in a sense asking:
 - Where's Elijah? Where's the restoration of the kingdom?
- Do not be overly concerned about Elijah

Then He answered and told them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and restores all things."

- It is written—our Lord affirms Scripture truthfulness (veracity of Scripture)
- The promises of OT are to be trusted
- Jesus changes the disciples focus

And how is it written concerning the Son of Man, that He must suffer many things and be treated with contempt?

- Focus on Scripture concerning the Son of Man
- Scripture talks about Messiah's suffering—where? **Ps 22; Zech 12; Is 53**
- Disciples—How can you be Messiah if Elijah has not come?
- Jesus—How can I be Messiah if I do not suffer!
- Elijah has come
 - Jesus is talking about John the Baptist
 - John the Baptist ministered in the spirit and power of Elijah

Luke 1:15 *For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.*

John 1:21 *And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."*

Matthew 11:11, 14 *Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 14 And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come.*

- They did what they wished
 - They killed John the Baptist
 - They wanted to kill Elijah (**1 Kings 19:1-10**)
 - Why? Because he came in spirit and in power
 - He brings the holiness of God into darkness—they hated the light
 - John revealed the light of Christ
 - John warned people to repent or experience hell
 - They hated his message and killed him
 - In the same way, people hate Jesus and will kill Him in a few months