

## *The Transfiguration and Our Suffering*

### *Mark 9:1-8*

#### *Series: Christ Our Focus*

#### 1. Introduction

- a. The high point of testimony in Mark's Gospel came in Mark 8:29 when Peter declares Christ to be the Son of God; Christ.
- b. Everything was leading to this point and everything that follows flows from this very confession.
- c. Christ now turns his attention to the disciples in getting them ready for the Passion Week, the cross, and the eventual resurrection—He spoke of his upcoming suffering—it was inconceivable.
- d. Peter's confession was commended but his refusal to believe in the suffering servant was condemned.
- e. In our passage today, both truths will be confirmed.

#### 2. Verse 1 – A Promise of the Royal Splendor.

- a. A highly misunderstood passage of Scripture.
- b. This, apart from the resurrection, is the most spectacular miracle recorded in the gospels.
  - i. Here, the glory of God will be revealed in its full majesty to ordinary, mortal men—in essence the Kingdom would come.

#### 3. Verses 2-3 – The Son's Transformation

- a. Peter, James, and John
  - i. This was the intimate circle of friends of Jesus
  - ii. By the testimony of two to three witnesses, will the matter be confirmed.
- b. Jesus was transfigured – *the revelation of his true nature*
  - i. Luke 9:32 – tells us that the disciples were asleep
    1. most likely from sorrow
      - a. **Luke 22:45** And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow,
    - ii. Transfigured – translated form of the verb *metamorphoo* – from which the English word “metamorphosis” derives.
      1. It appears four times in the New Testament

- a. Here, Matthew 17:2, Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 3:18.
    - b. It speaks of total transformation into something new.
  - c. Garment intensely white—Such as no launderer—Glory beyond human words.
    - i. Jesus had possessed divine glory from all eternity
      - 1. **John 17:5** And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.
    - ii. When God appeared in the Old Testament, he did so with light because of His glory –
      - 1. **Leviticus 9:23** And Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting, and when they came out they blessed the people, and the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people.
      - 2. **Exodus 24:15-16** Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. (16) The glory of the LORD dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud.
      - 3. **1 Kings 8:10-11** And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, (11) so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.
    - iii. Jesus is the pure revelation of God’s Glory
      - 1. **1 Corinthians 2:8** None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
      - 2. **2 Corinthians 4:6** For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
    - iv. The disciples would be the witnesses
      - 1. **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

4. Verses 4 – The Saints’ Association - The Law and the Prophets bear witness.
  - a. Elijah and Moses existed as glorified spirits in heaven waiting the day that their bodies will be resurrected with the saints.
  - b. The transfiguration was meant to prepare the disciples for the truth that a suffering servant must come first before a triumphal king.
    - i. Moses and Elijah testify of this truth
    - ii. **Luke 9:30-31** And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, (31) who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.
  - c. Moses and Elijah
    - i. Moses was the most honored leader; the law giver
    - ii. Elijah was the guardian of the Law and fought to restore Israel to faithfulness to the Law.
    - iii. Both had suffered tremendously
    - iv. True saints associate with both truths.
  
5. Verses 5-6 – Peter’s Suggestion – Erroneous; Christ already provided a tabernacle
  - a. When Peter hears the subject of the conversation, Peter interrupts Jesus, Moses, and Elijah
  - b. Peter wants the suffering of the cross to be avoided
    - i. He wants to move in and establish the kingdom from the mountaintop in new glorified bodies.
      1. Peter cannot establish Jesus; rather Jesus establishes Peter.
    - ii. He is putting his eyes on the witness and missing Christ
    - iii. Luke 9:33 – he was not realizing what he was saying.
    - iv. Peter was expecting a fulfillment of the kingdom but not through suffering.
  
6. Verses 7-8 – God the Father’s Correction
  - a. Matthew 17:6 – upon hearing the voice the Disciples fell face first terrified.
  - b. A direct rebuke to Peter – Listen to the Son
    - i. The son is right in asserting his upcoming sufferings.

- ii. The father points to Christ and it is only by the father that you can truly know who the son is.
  - 1. **John 6:44** No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.
- c. No one around – the preview was over and the kingdom would not be established first without the cross.
- d. Like Christ, we will suffer first before we are permanently in glory.
  - i. The claim, “You are the Christ!” imposes a claim on the one who says it. The Son of Man calls those who would know him to *follow* him.
  - ii. **Acts 14:21-22** When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, (22) strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.
  - iii. **Romans 8:16-17** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (17) and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.
  - iv. **2 Timothy 3:11-12** my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra--which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. (12) Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,
  - v. **1 Peter 4:13** But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

7. Benediction:

- a. **Philippians 3:20-21** But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (21) who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.