

THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS – p. 28

“Listen to Him”

Mark 9:2-13

Comfort for the Confused

Has life ever been confusing to you? Has there ever been a time when things didn't go as planned?

-Have you ever been disappointed, perplexed, or frustrated?

-If so, I think this passage will be of help to you!

It will help you in two ways –

1 – Giving you hope in the coming glory of Christ

2 – Giving you hope in the full gospel of Christ

Read Mark 9:2-13

Pray

Hope in the Coming Glory of Christ – vs. 2-8

The hope of the coming glory of Christ is hinted at in verse 1 –

-v. 1 – *“And he said to them, ‘Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.’”*

-That would be Peter, James and John.

-And they would be taken up to a “high mountain” –

-Probably Mount Hermon – the highest point in all the region.

The Transfiguration is a foreshadowing of the coming kingdom of God –

-It is a foreshadowing of everything they thought the kingdom would be!

-And the most glorious part of the kingdom is the King!

The Glory of Christ –

1 – He was “transfigured” –

-This Greek word is where we get our English word “metamorphosis.”

-Jesus was truly God and He was truly man –

-The fact that He was a real, physical man meant that the revelation of His full deity had to be veiled.

-Like Charles Wesley's song, “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” –

-Second Verse – “Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity”

-While normally, the human flesh of Jesus veiled His deity, the Transfiguration was a unique event where Jesus, for a moment, let more of the divine glory of God show through.

2 – His clothes were “radiant” –

-v. 3 – *“His clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.”*

-It is a glorious light that cannot be manufactured by man.

-In the Old Testament, God often revealed Himself in glorious, radiant, white light that was called “Shekinah glory.”

-God appears, in the Bible, in glorious light –

-Creation – Let there be light!

-Dedications of Tabernacle and Temple – Ex. 40; 1 Kings 8

-The face of Moses would radiate God's glory, and he had to wear the veil...Ex. 34

-The point is this other worldly, radiant, white light is a manifestation of God's presence.

3 – Appearance of “Moses and Elijah” –

- v. 4 – *“And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.”*
 - Why Elijah and Moses? Because they represent the Law (Moses) and Prophets (Elijah).
 - The “Law and Prophets” means Old Testament.
 - And we know what they were talking about!
 - Luke 9:30-31 – *“And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.”*
 - They are talking about the gospel! Luke 24:25-27
- Obviously, from the conversation, they identify Moses and Elijah because Peter is going to suggest they build tents - v.5 *“...Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.”*

4 – They were “terrified” –

- v. 6 – *“...they were terrified.”*
 - They sense how awesome He is and how sinful they are and it’s a terrifying experience.
 - Only God has this effect on people – Jesus is God!
 - In the Bible, to be in the presence of God is a terrifying experience –
 - What did Peter mean by suggesting they build three booths or “tents”?
 - It is the word for “tabernacle” – The place where God’s presence dwelt with His people.
 - What happened on that day was a one and done – a truly unique experience!

5 – A “cloud overshadowed them” –

- v. 7 – *“And a cloud overshadowed them...”*
 - This is an unmistakable manifestation of the presence of God.
- Specifically, it is the presence of the Holy Spirit –
 - In the beginning, the Holy Spirit was “hovering” (overshadowing) the face of the waters – Gen. 1:2
 - Gabriel told Mary that she would conceive because the Holy Spirit would come upon her and the Most High would **overshow** her.
 - And now, the Holy Spirit is God’s presence in the life of each believer.

6 – A “voice came out of the cloud” –

- v. 7 – *“...a voice came out of the cloud, ‘This is my beloved Son; listen to him’.”*
 - While God the Father spoke from heaven on 2 other occasions, this is the only time from heaven the voice of God says, “Listen to Him.”
- In the context, what is clear is that they were to listen to what Jesus was telling them about His death and resurrection. Jesus kept pointing them to the cross!

Only Jesus

- Verse 8 – *“And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.”*
 - Jesus allowed them to experience something that no other disciples ever experienced –
 - Here, Jesus knowing everything they were going to face in Jerusalem, gives them the opportunity (a truly unique opportunity) to walk by sight.
- vs. 9-13 Jesus tells them not to tell anyone about what they have seen until after the resurrection –
 - Because they wanted, as John 6 makes clear, to take him by force to make him king.
 - That’s not what the first coming was about!
 - The disciples ask about OT prophecy about Elijah coming before the Christ –
 - Jesus affirms the prophecy that Elijah will come and announce the Messiah and His kingdom –
 - But let me bring you back to the plan of God –
 - Elijah has come – John the Baptizer – He would tell people to prepare their hearts for Messiah!
 - You know what they will do to Messiah? Nail him to a cross. Matthew 17:9-13