

Elijah and Moses the Lawgiver. Peter was ready to build some dwellings for Moses, Elijah and Jesus and camp out right there!

Peter, James and John truly had a mountaintop experience where they were in the presence of a glorified Jesus. Have you ever been in a place where you felt especially close to God? What was that experience like? Were you reluctant to leave or were you ready to return to everyday life?

7 Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" - Mark 9:7 NIV

11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." - Mark 1:11 NIV

In the first chapter of Mark, God confirmed Jesus as His Son as He was baptized. Once again God declares Jesus as His Son and affirms His teaching. God's command is simple – listen to Him.

It was time to come down the mountain and return to the difficult life of being a disciple of Jesus. When God declared Jesus and His Son, He didn't tell the disciples to serve Him, to worship Him, or to Love Him. Why was listening to Jesus more important than any of these things? In what ways does Jesus speak to you?

WRAP-UP

In the first half of Mark's Gospel, Jesus is revealed as the long-awaited King and Messiah, but the second half challenges expectations by showing He is not the conquering ruler people imagined—He is a suffering servant. When Peter correctly identifies Jesus as the Christ, he still misunderstands what that means, rejecting Jesus' prediction of suffering and death. Jesus begins to redefine both His mission and what it means to follow Him: true disciples must deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Him, embracing sacrifice over self-interest. At the Transfiguration, Peter, James, and John witness a glimpse of Jesus' divine glory, affirming His identity and God's command to "listen to Him," underscoring that true discipleship is not about power or comfort, but obedience and transformation.

MEMORY VERSE

36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? - Mark 8:36 NIV

Challenge – During your prayer time this week, don't begin with a list of your needs, but begin by intently listening for His voice.

Redefining Expectations of the Messiah Gospel of Mark Ch. 8 & 9 - Week 3

INTRODUCTION

In the first 8 chapters of Mark's Gospel, we discovered that the King is here, and His name is Jesus. But as we begin the second half of Mark, we find out that He is not the kind of King people were expecting. Near the end of chapter 8, Peter declares that Jesus is the Christ or Messiah. But when Jesus began to speak plainly about his suffering and death Peter rebuked him because what Jesus was describing didn't fit Peter's understanding of what the Messiah should do. As Jesus reveals the plan for His suffering, death and resurrection He also redefines what it means to be His follower. And at the transfiguration Peter, James and John catch a glimpse of their Messiah in His glory.

Ice Breaker

Do you remember attending an event with great anticipation only to be disappointed?

Key Passages

34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. - Mark 8:34 NIV

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Two Routes for the Messiah

31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. 32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." - Mark 8:31-33 NIV

Jesus and Peter might be using the same language, but they have different definitions for what the Messiah should do. Verse 32 tells us Jesus spoke plainly about his suffering, death and resurrection. And although Peter had

just declared that Jesus was the chosen and anointed one, he wasn't treating Jesus like his Lord. Instead, Peter admonished Jesus.

Verse 32 explains that Peter was focused on human concerns rather than Godly ones. What kind of human concerns might Peter have been expressing? Why do you think Jesus saw this akin to the agenda Satan had for him?

At times we may find ourselves thinking like Peter. Do we really want to recognize Jesus as meek, merciful, befriending the outcasts or would we prefer to only see Him and the mighty warrior defending the truth and administering judgment against the sinner? Or maybe we see the compassionate savior but not the righteous judge. Are we able to embrace the full picture of Jesus, or is our understanding of Him still a bit fuzzy, skewed by the concerns of this world? Pause a moment for a humble prayer, asking God to shape your heart to align with His.

2. Deny Yourself, Pick Up Your Cross and Follow

34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. - Mark 8:34 NIV

6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- - Romans 6:6 NIV

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. - Galatians 5:24 NIV

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. - Colossians 3:5 NIV

Wow, Jesus didn't make this easy! If the crowd came in hopes of getting food, or healing, or finding someone to kick out the Romans, this was the last thing they wanted to hear. And His disciples had just been told Jesus would suffer, be rejected and killed.

When Jesus said deny yourself and take up your cross, it wasn't a figure of speech to His hearers. Under Nero they would face persecution and death for their faith. But what does it mean for us? When you read the passages above, what must die in a Christian's life? Crucifixion was a process. Some on the cross would die quickly,

while others could live several days before succumbing. In your experience, what parts of your old nature died off quickly after accepting Jesus, and which are still struggling to live on?

35 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? 37 Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

- Mark 8:35-38 NIV

28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ... 32 "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

- Matthew 10:28, 32-33 NIV

The ability to embrace deferred gratification is viewed as a sign of maturity in children. If you said, "you can have one candy now or wait for 10 minutes and I will give you two" the immature child will eat the candy now. In Mark 8:35 Jesus is encouraging the believer to do two things- first to recognize the unparalleled value of your eternal soul, and second to set aside your immediate desires for deferred gratification of an eternity with God. Our willingness to do so is a mark of our spiritual maturity.

What is the hardest thing for you to let go of in this world?

3. Catching a Glimpse

17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

- Matthew 5:17 NIV

2 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. 3 His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. 4 And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

- Mark 9:2-4 NIV

The Hebrew Scripture was commonly referred to as The Law and The Prophets in Jesus' time. When Jesus was transfigured, He appeared with two of the greatest figures from the Scriptures, the Prophet