

# Mark



## Lesson 10-Transfiguration, Exorcism, and Servants

Focus: Mark 9:1-41

### 1. Jesus and the Mount of Transfiguration (v.1-13)

- a. (v.1,2) Jesus had just finished speaking about the power and great glory of His second coming (when He returns with the glory of the Father and all the Holy Angels with him) (8:38). **Now, he says** there were some standing in front of Him who would not see death **until they had seen the Kingdom of God coming** with power (9:1). (v.2)-*Then after six days He took with him Peter, James, and John (his inner circle of closest disciples), who had been standing there, and brought them into a mountain where He was transfigured before them. And they saw His glory! (The statement of Jesus in verse 1 is connected with the occurrence in verse 2; obviously, Jesus' Second Coming did not happen in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century!)*
- b. (v.3,4) **These three disciples had a mountaintop experience with Jesus** just like Moses had had a powerful mountaintop experience with God when he had said, "Show me your glory," some 1500 years earlier (Exodus 33:18-23). Seeing something of God's glory is a life transforming experience; which not everyone could walk away from. Paul was blinded by just a mere glimpse of it (Acts 22:6,11). After Moses saw it, no one could even look at him (Exodus 34:29-35). The glory of God was generally veiled through the flesh and body of Jesus (Hebrews 10:20; John 1:14).
- c. **Moses and Elijah appeared** talking with Jesus (v.4). *These are two men whom God has already taken to heaven—each by a different way. One of them, **Elijah, was caught up to heaven without ever seeing death (2 Kings 2:11,12).** Elijah had been one of the greatest prophets of the Old Testament times. The other, Moses, did see death, but God disputed against the devil for Moses' body, and **Moses was resurrected from the dead, and then taken to heaven** (Deuteronomy 34:4-7; Jude 1:9). Moses was known as the giver of the Law (which God had given through him). **BOTH THE "LAW AND THE PROPHETS" testified of Jesus' great power and glory as the Son of God.** Moses and Elijah testified. (The Scripture, Old Testament Bible, is called "the Law and the Prophets"). After these two disappeared, all they saw was "**Jesus only**" (v.8; John 5:39). **We should have our eyes directed to Jesus—for HE is God!!** (not any man) And we should "hear Him" (v.7).*
- d. **This scene was also a miniature of the Second Coming of Jesus.** Two groups joined Jesus on that mountaintop of His glory. Both were the faithful ones!! Those who were saw death and were resurrected **and** those who never saw death (but were translated directly to heaven without seeing death). This will happen at the Second Coming of Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17).
- e. (v.5-8) *The disciples were a bit fearful of this situation and Peter spoke (as usual—he was always saying something). However, his words didn't entirely fit this situation—he didn't know what to say (ever happen to you?). Sometimes it's better for us just to keep our mouths closed.*
- f. (v.9-10) *In going down the mountain, the disciples did not understand well the words of Jesus about His death because they had a very false concept in their minds as to what Messiah should do. It was popular teaching among the Pharisees—the religious leaders of Christ's day—that the Messiah was going to come, conquer the Romans, and set up an earthly Kingdom. They had come to fully believe that teaching. And, therefore, they could not understand Christ's words well—because they did not meet their expectation. This happens to many today. Because false teachings are popularized in the Christian church (by false teachers/shepherds) among the Christian world today, many have read over Christ's very clear statements of Bible truth—and yet, they have failed to understand them rightly!! **Let this forever be a lesson to us. Be careful not to just accept some teaching because all the popular religionists are saying it is true!** (The Devil misled the minds of popular religious leaders back in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, and he's doing the same today). **BE SURE that your beliefs are built solidly upon the Bible and upon the clear words of Jesus Christ—and not just upon what some popular religionist, pastor, or teacher may say!***
- g. (v.12,13) **The coming of Elijah.** A prophecy of the Old Testament which can be found in Malachi 4:5,6. A message in the Spirit and power of Elijah the prophet was to come and bring revival to Israel before the coming of the "day of the Lord." This message of revival came through John the Baptist to prepare people's hearts and minds for receiving Jesus

*Christ—the Messiah! However, the Pharisees and many of the religious leaders of Christ’s day did not receive him well either (this fact Jesus here points out) (Matthew 3:7-9; 11:13,14; John 5:33-35; Luke 7:30). Many of them eventually wrote off the powerful message of John, just as they would to Jesus’ words—very sadly, to their own destruction. **Let us not fail to heed and obey Heaven’s counsel** (from God’s appointed messengers). The result of such a course would be fatal.*

## 2. Jesus heals a young boy who was possessed by a demon (v.14-29)

- a. (v.14-19) Jesus came to his other disciples and found a great crowd gathered around. When they saw Jesus coming to them, they excitedly ran to meet him and to present this case before him. Apparently, his disciples were not able to prevail (and do well) in this particular case of possession. The crowds were disappointed. **And, Jesus himself, was disappointed at the “faithlessness” of this generation** (and of even His disciples) (v.19). The Master wondered, “How long shall I be with you?” (Jesus could not always be here to perform every miracle among us in person. We have a need to learn how to be more connected with God). **We find it true here, that one may have more skill and knowledge in the science of soul-saving, or teaching God’s word, or in performing the works of God.** We must all learn of Jesus how to be more effective servants for our Master!
- b. (v.20-24) Not only was there trouble of unbelief (skill, or connection with Infinite Power) from the disciples’ side of things; but also from the side of the father of this boy. He prayed a prayer that we all may and should pray, **“Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief!” (v.24).** This boy had been suffering since childhood. We see here that Satan aims to destroy us all—even from a very young age if he can. Jesus however aims always to heal and to save us. **“All things are possible to he who believes” (v.23).** Therefore, let us **BELIEVE in the power of Jesus Christ** (and not be doubting).
- c. (v.25-29) Jesus rebuked the devil and it fled from the boy. Christ delivers!! Satan had left this boy as if for dead. Yet, by the grace of Jesus Christ, this boy was not dead! **“Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.”** Let’s allow Jesus to deliver us from the bondage of Satan, sin, and death; Let’s allow Jesus to “lift us up” from the mire of this sinful world and from the problems that face us. Let’s allow Jesus to lift us up from discouragement and from helplessness. Let’s receive the true life that Jesus has come to give us—“Life, and that...more abundantly” (John 10:10). **By “prayer and fasting”, “this kind” came out. And so it will be with many things when spiritual battles are fought—let us be those who pray and fast, and who are connected with the Almighty power of God! (This power will revive our souls, and our churches!)**

## 3. Jesus taught about His death to His disciples—privately (v.30-32) Jesus spoke with crystal clear words about what was going to happen to him. Again however, we can see that the message went right over the heads of his disciples because this idea did not meet their preconceived ideas and expectations about how the Messiah would come. As said before, there are many in the Christian world today, who do not understand the crystal clear words of Jesus because their minds have been led astray by false teachers. Let us pray that true understanding will come for all (as it eventually did for the disciples). **Jesus had taught his disciples in a private session—not with the multitude (v.30)—there is a time and place for public teachings. And a time and place for private instructions as well—not meant for the multitude.**

## 4. Jesus teaches His disciples how to have the proper mind of a servant (v.33-41) Jesus teaches us that we must have humble minds, even as a little child. Those who desire high and mighty places for the sake of pride will be placed in the lowest of places (no doubt to save our souls). Pride is the evil that destroyed Lucifer. “God resists the proud, but He gives grace unto the humble” (1 Peter 5:5). And “Before honor, is humility” (Proverbs 15:33; 18:12). Humility is an essential lesson we must learn of God! Jesus is father to the children and Jesus is the child of our heavenly Father (v.37). We must look out for the little ones, and we must follow the example of a humble mind which Jesus has given. We must learn to be God’s children and to have Christ’s humble mind. **(v.38-41) John brings up a special case of something he saw.** Jesus gave him valuable instruction. Just because someone has not joined “the right group” yet does not mean that we should forbid them to speak and do good things “in the name” of Jesus. It’s hard to say evil of someone when you seek to do good for them. Also remember, to show kindness unto a servant of Christ is a good idea (v.41).

### Question (s) for the Heart:

**Will you pray to have more faith in Jesus, and seek to have a humble mind, through Him? \_\_\_\_\_**