

# **Jesus Christ, the Son of God**

*Studies in the Gospel of Mark*

## **The Transfiguration**

**Lesson 12**

**Mark 9:1-29**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*

*March 21, 2021*

# The Transfiguration - Context

- ▶ The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God
  - A spiritual mission – the straight way of the LORD
  - Approved by God – “My beloved Son, in you I am well pleased”
  - Tempted by Satan – in the wilderness 40 days – A spiritual battle
  - A carpenter from Galilee
- ▶ Divine authority and power in ministry – over the curse
- ▶ Preparing disciples for future ministry
- ▶ A world of the blind and deaf
  - Seeing, but not seeing; hearing, but not hearing
  - Rejected and hated by the god of this world and his children
- ▶ Who is Jesus?
  - Peter: the Christ (8:29; John 6:66-69)
  - Jesus: the Savior – suffering, rejection, death and resurrection
  - Jesus: His mission will be their mission, although not atoning

# Two Realities

- ▶ Two unseen realms meet in the real world
- ▶ A ministry in the wisdom of God, not the wisdom of man
- ▶ The kingdom of God in power (9:1-13)
- ▶ The powers of hell in man (9:14-29)

# The Transfiguration (9:1-13)

- ▶ Conclusion of Mark 8 – the coming of the Son of Man in the glory of the Father
- ▶ “Truly” – Some will see the kingdom of God come in power
- ▶ Some present at the time – disciples
- ▶ Six days later – links the statement to the event
- ▶ An event planned by Jesus for Peter, James, and John
- ▶ Peter and John will write about it (2 Peter 1:16-18; John 1:14)
- ▶ A display of the realm of the ministry by the disciples

# The Transfiguration (9:2-13)

- ▶ Transfigured before them – Jesus in radiant and exceedingly white garments
- ▶ Elijah and Moses present and talking with Jesus (Luke 9:30-31)
- ▶ Elijah (1 Kings 17, 18, 19, 21; 2 Kings 1, 2)
  - Ministry to the northern kingdom (Israel)
  - The word of Yahweh came to him 18 times – no sermons
  - 3 years of famine followed by the contest with Baal on Mt. Carmel
  - Fire from heaven 3 times
  - Elijah – hiding or running away
  - Taken to heaven in a chariot of fire and a whirlwind
- ▶ Moses (Exodus–Deuteronomy)
  - Leader from slavery to the Promised Land
  - Law giver and taught regeneration (Deut 30:6)
  - Looked forward to Christ (Deut 18:15-22)
- ▶ Moses and Elijah – failed ministries?
  - Characterized in Scripture as men of faith (Heb 11:24; James 5:15-18)
  - Now in unimaginable glory (Rom 8:18)

# The Transfiguration (9:2-13)

- ▶ Peter speaks – “It is good to be here”
  - The things of man v. the things of God (compare 8:32-33)
- ▶ The Father speaks – “This is My beloved Son, listen to Him”
  - The things of God v. the things of man
- ▶ The glory vanishes
- ▶ Wait until after the resurrection to tell about this
- ▶ A discussion about resurrection from the dead
- ▶ A discussion about Elijah
  - Elijah must come first (Mal 4:5-6)
  - Elijah and John (2 Kings 1:8; Mark 1:6)
  - A common ministry preaching repentance
  - Elijah and the “great and terrible day of Yahweh”
- ▶ Jesus re-directs the conversation to His suffering

# Casting Out the Demon (9:14-29)

- ▶ Present in all 3 synoptic Gospels, but twice the space in Mark
- ▶ Confronting demon possession in Mark:
  - First miracle in Capernaum (1:21-27)
  - Many demons (1:32-34; 39; 3:11)
  - Disciples given authority (2:15; 6:7, 13)
  - Accused of casting out demons by Baalzebul (3:22-26)
  - Legion of demons cast out of the Gerasene man (5:12-18)
  - The Syrophenician woman's daughter (7:25-30)
  - Current incident (9:14-29) – last such episode in Mark
  - He had cast 7 demons out of Mary Magdalene (16:9)
  - Future disciples will cast out demons in Christ's name (16:17)
- ▶ Christ came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8)
- ▶ Miracles are teaching events

# Casting Out the Demon (9:14-29)

- ▶ Three groups: large crowd, disciples, scribes
  - Superficial hearing
  - Partial hearing
  - Totally deaf
- ▶ The issue: inability of the disciples to cast out a demon
- ▶ The real problem identified by Jesus: “O unbelieving generation”
- ▶ Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6)
  - Access requires believing that He is and He rewards those who seek Him
- ▶ The father’s response: “If you can do anything . . .”
- ▶ Jesus answers: “All things are possible to him who believes”
  - Must believe in the God who is – His attributes
  - Power, goodness, love, wisdom, faithfulness, immutability . . .
  - Entrusting yourself to our faithful Creator (1 Peter 4:19)
- ▶ NOT, all things probable, or likely, or certain . . . but good

# Casting Out the Demon (9:14-29)

- ▶ The solution: “Bring him to Me” (9:19b, 24-27)
- ▶ The father’s cry: “I do believe. Help my unbelief”
- ▶ Jesus spoke and he was healed
- ▶ Disciples ask: Why could we not drive it out?
- ▶ The answer exposes their lack of understanding – They never will be able!
- ▶ Jesus answers: Only by prayer (and fasting)
- ▶ Trusting God to act – entirely outside of their ability
- ▶ Phil 4:6-9 – make requests . . . with thanksgiving

# The Transfiguration

- ▶ The contrasting realms of the believer
  - The power of God in the kingdom of God
  - The power of hell in the kingdom of Satan
- ▶ Two essentials for a blessed ministry
  - “Listen to Him!” – hear, obey, and proclaim the Word of God
  - “Bring him to me” – Call all to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ
- ▶ Pray for hearing and faith
  - For yourself
  - For those to whom you minister
- ▶ Proclaim “Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (1 Cor 2:2)