

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 Syrophoenician 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)