

Mark

Lesson 12

Chapter 8:27-9:13

Leader Guide

Leader Guide Bible Studies

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Preparations for Glory: Peter's Confession, Predictions of Death, Transfiguration

Lesson 12; Mark 8:27-9:13, Matthew 16:13-17:13, Luke 9:18-36

Prayers

Introduction

The transfiguration of Jesus marks a turning point in his ministry. The road trips through the regions surrounding Galilee and Judea were completed. Now, the journey to Jerusalem and the cross were in sharp focus. The transfiguration served to strengthen the faith of Peter, James, and John - the three disciples who were with him but also helped prepare Jesus for the suffering to come. Like the disciples, our "mountain top" experience inevitably ends, and we must descend the mountain and return to the trials we left behind for a moment. Still, remembering Christ's faithfulness in the past should encourage us in the future.

Peters Confession, Mark 8:27-30. Parallel verses in Matthew 16:13-20, Luke 9:18-20

Mk 8:27 Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way, he asked them, "Who do people say I [the Son of Man] am?"

Mk 8:28 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

Mk 8:29 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ."

[Mt 16:17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.

Mt 16:18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Mt 16:19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."]

Mk 8:30 Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

1. Verse 27. Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do people say I am?" Surprisingly, there were so many different responses! What do the different reactions reveal about their thinking?
 - a. Son of Man, Daniel 7:13-14, Psalm 8:4-5

The title "Son of Man" comes from Daniel's vision of Jesus in glory with his Father, the Ancient of Days, who gives his son authority, sovereign power, and an eternal kingdom. Son of Man emphasized Jesus' humanity and was Jesus' favorite title for himself. He used Son of Man 80 times and Son of God 23 times.

Jewish thinking on the "Son of Man" in Daniel 7 varies. Most regard him as the Messiah, others an angel. They do not necessarily regard the title as messianic and can be translated as son of Adam or man of humility.

b. John the Baptist, Luke 9:7-9

People who thought Jesus was John the Baptist, like Herod, believed that John had been raised from the dead – but they must have been confused by the fact that Jesus and John were alive at the same time.

c. Elijah, Malachi 3:1, 4:5

People who thought Jesus was the prophet Elijah knew the scripture and were expecting the Messiah. They failed to recognize John the Baptist, dressed in the prophet's robe of camel hair and eating locusts and honey, as the one who ministered in the Spirit of Elijah and who was the fulfillment of scripture.

d. Jeremiah or one of the prophets, Jeremiah 30:8-9

People who thought Jesus was a prophet recognized that Jesus was, in fact, a prophet. He spoke with God's authority, taught about God's kingdom, and revealed God's will to the people. Jeremiah's message was that the Messiah would come as a mighty warrior to restore the nation of Israel. They did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah who would be God's suffering servant, a man of sorrows, and as the Lamb of God -sacrificed for the sins of the world.

2. Verse 15. Peter alone showed insight into Jesus' identity. How might Peter, like his fellow Jews, have perceived the Messiah/Christ based on scripture? See also: Isaiah 2, 11, 42, Jeremiah 23, 30, 33, Micah 4, Zechariah 14:9

a. Isaiah 2:1-4, the Lord's temple will be established, the Lord will teach his people, the Lord will judge the nations, settle disputes, and bring peace.

b. Isaiah 42:13 – The Lord will be like a mighty warrior .

c. Jeremiah 23:5-6 He will be a king in the line of David to reign and save Israel .

Jesus Predicts His death, Mark 16:21-28, Parallel verses in Matthew 16:21-28, Luke 9:22-27

[Mt 16:21 From that time on] Mk 8:31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and teachers of the law and that he must be killed and after three days rise [to life] again.

Mk 8:32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ["Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"]

Mk 8:33 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 things of God, but the things of men."

Mk 8:34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Mk 8:35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.

Mk 8:36 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?

Mk 8:37 Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

Mk 8:38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels [Mt 16:27] and then he will reward each person according to what he has done."

Mk 9:1 And he said to them, "I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

3. Verse 21. What did the disciples learn about what would happen to Jesus in the near future?

Jesus previously told his disciples about his death in general terms, but now he was specific, he would suffer, be rejected by Jewish leaders, be killed, and rise to life on the third day.

4. Unlike the Messiah as a mighty warrior, Jesus' pointed to other Messianic prophecies:

a. Isaiah 53:4-6 [Messiah] would be pierced for our transgressions.

b. Isaiah 53:10 The Lord will cause [the Messiah] to suffer.

c. John 3:14-15, Numbers 21:8-9. The [Messiah] must be "raised up" so that everyone who believes will have eternal life.

d. Deuteronomy 16:5-6 The [Lamb of God] must be sacrificed in Jerusalem.

e. 1 Corinthians 15:20 [Messiah] must rise from the dead on the third day as the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. See also Psalm 16:10, Hosea 6:2

5. Verse 22. Why do you think Peter rebuked Jesus?

**He loved Jesus and could not bear the thought of his death.
Jesus' death was utterly contrary to his view of the Messiah.
He missed the part about Jesus' rising from the dead.**

6. Verse 23. Why did Jesus call Peter Satan?

Peter was doing the same thing Satan had tried to do, namely, keep Jesus from going to the cross as his Father wanted him to do.

7. Verse 24-25. What do you think Jesus meant by telling his disciples to "take up their cross and lose their life." Consider what life is given up and what life is gained.

All who are part of the kingdom of God will have to carry a cross like Jesus. Carrying your cross means putting aside your own schedule to make time to help our neighbor. The cross also calls us to put aside our sinful pleasures, pride, and any other action that denies Jesus is the Lord of our life.

Transfiguration, [Parallel verses in Matthew 17:1-13, Luke 9:28-36]

Mk 9:2 After six days, Jesus took Peter, James, and John [the brother of James], with him and led them up a high mountain [to pray], where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.

[Lk 9:29 As he was praying, Mt 17:2 His face shone like the sun,] Mk 9:3 His clothes became dazzling white [as bright as a flash of lightning], whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.

Mk 9:4 And there appeared before them [in glorious splendor] Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. [Lk 9:31 They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.]

[Lk 9:32 Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.]

Mk 9:5 Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

Mk 9:6 (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

Mk 9:7 Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”

[Mt 17:6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. Mt 17:7 But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.”]

[Lk 9:36 When the voice had spoken,] Mk 9:8 suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

Mk 9:9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Mk 9:10 They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what “rising from the dead” meant.

Mk 9:11 And they asked him, “Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?”

Mk 9:12 Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected?”

Mk 9:13 But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him.”

[Mt 17:13 Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.]

8. Summarize what happened on the Mount of Transfiguration.

Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a mountain to reveal his former heavenly glory. Elijah and Moses appeared, to comfort and strengthen him for the trial and suffering ahead of him in Jerusalem. God the Father also spoke of his love for his Son, to increase the disciple's faith as encouragement to their witness.

9. How did the transfiguration strengthen the disciples? How did it strengthen Jesus?

The disciples remembered this event later and gave testimony to others of Jesus’ glory. See 2 Peter 1:16–18, 2Pe 1:16 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

2Pe 1:17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

2Pe 1:18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

Jesus would soon suffer and die so his transfiguration was as much an encouragement to him as it was for the disciples. He saw the glory that was his and would be his again after he completed his Father's will. See Hebrews 12:2. He spoke with Moses and Elijah about death which would gain salvation for the world and fulfill all Moses and Elijah had said about him. Jesus also heard the Father's approval of His work.

10. Verse 3. What is significant about the appearance of Moses and Elijah?

- a. John 1:45 **Jesus is the Messiah who Moses and the prophets wrote about**
- b. Malachi 3:1, 4:5-6 **Elijah was to come to prepare the way for the Messiah**
- c. Genesis 12:1-3 **Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham – to bless all the people of the earth through him**

11. Verses 16:20 and 17:9. Why do you think Jesus told his disciples not to say to others he was the Christ and transfigured with Moses and Elijah?

The people had the wrong view of Jesus as the Messiah as a glorious warrior king; this account would only strengthen their misperceptions.

12. Mark 9:10 Why were the disciples so slow to understand what Jesus meant by rising from the dead?

Jesus had demonstrated his power over death by raising the widow's son and little girl. He would raise Lazarus, but how could he raise himself if he was dead?

Prophetic scriptures relating to rising from the dead on the third are few and somewhat ambiguous. They include Jesus' reference to "the sign of Jonah," symbolism of the festival of the first fruits three days after Passover, and Hosea 6:1-2 "Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces, but he will heal us; he has injured us, but he will bind up our wounds. ^{6:2} After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.

13. Verse 11-13. What does the account of John the Baptist and Elijah reveal about the fulfillment of prophecy?

God's word is fulfilled in very unexpected and seemingly impossible ways. Examples are John the Baptist as Elijah; the Messiah was to come from Bethlehem, Egypt, and Nazareth; the Messiah was to be a mighty warrior and a sacrificial lamb.

14. After all the times I have read this account, I never noticed Jesus' touch to calm the disciple's fears. When has someone acted as Christ to you, reaching with a gentle touch or hug to reassure you in the face of great anxiety?

Many times people reached out with a simple touch with or without empathy when I was grieving. Touch is risky in the workplace, making one touch memorable. I was in my first year at Shell and in my first Head Office review, where management was deciding who they would fire after the onset of declining oil prices in the early '80s. Three days before the review, I discovered an error in my research, which

negated about nine months of work. There was nothing to do but show the error and discuss the project objectives and the path forward. I was sure I would be fired. After the review, a senior person on the team came up to me and put his arm around my shoulder and said he was sorry to see the problem; he would be happy to help anytime. He remained a good mentor and friend until his retirement a few years later. I didn't know it at the time, but many of those men would help me throughout my career.

Closing Prayer by John Baillie

Mighty and merciful Father, whose power and whose love always work together for the protection of Your children, give me grace today to put my trust in You.

Father, I pray:

- for faith to believe that You rule the world in truth and righteousness
- for faith to believe that if I seek first Your Kingdom and righteousness, You'll provide for all my other needs
- for faith to let go of any anxious thought, to believe Your mercies will always continue
- for faith to see Your purpose of love behind the scenes of what is happening in the world today
- for faith to be calm and brave in the face of any dangers I'll meet with today
- for faith to believe in the power of Your love to melt my cold heart and swallow up my sin
- for faith to put my trust in love rather than in force, when other people harden their hearts against me
- for faith to believe in the ultimate victory of Your Holy Spirit over disease and death and all the powers of darkness
- for faith to make good of the suffering that You have chosen for me to endure
- for faith to leave in Your hands the health and safety of all those dear to me, especially _____ and _____

God, so many people who came before me have trusted You and weren't disappointed, so remove now all my useless anxieties and paralyzing fears. Give me a cheerful and positive spirit, and peace in doing Your will. For Christ's sake, amen.