

Mark

Lesson 12

Chapter 8:27-9:13

Participant 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
 - b. John the Baptist, Luke 9:7-9
 - c. Elijah, Malachi 3:1, 4:5

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

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 _____ will be established, the Lord will teach _____, the Lord will judge _____, settle disputes, and bring peace.

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

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

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?

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

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

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

- c. John 3:14-15, Numbers 21:8-9. The [Messiah] must be _____ so that everyone who believes will have _____ life.
- d. Deuteronomy 16:5-6 The [Lamb of God] must be sacrificed in _____.
- e. 1 Corinthians 15:20 [Messiah] must rise from the dead on the third day as the _____ of those who have fallen asleep. See also Psalm 16:10, Hosea 6:2
5. Verse 22. Why do you think Peter rebuked Jesus?
6. Verse 23. Why did Jesus call Peter Satan?
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.

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.

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

10. Verse 3. What is significant about the appearance of Moses and Elijah?
 - a. John 1:45
 - b. Malachi 3:1, 4:5-6
 - c. Genesis 12:1-3

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?

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

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

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?

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.