

Announcements

- 1) Women's Coffee Talk @ 3pm
- 2) Carpet install—Wed-Fri
- 3) Shoot day—CCW refresher day—Feb 20 @ 8am
- 4) Lots of changes this week:
 - 1) Service STARTS @ 10:30am
 - 2) Ephesians study moved to Tuesday @ 6:30pm
 - 3) Kingdom Men Study & Breakfast Sat @ 8am

Transfiguration

Mark 9:2-13

Last week we looked at Jesus clearly telling the disciples that the Son of Man must suffer, that He would be put to death and three days later rise from the dead. We saw the disciples, especially Peter's reaction of rebuking Jesus for saying such things. This comes right on the coat tails of Peter proclaiming that Jesus is the Messiah. In the passage before that we see Jesus asking the disciples who the people say Jesus is. The people were saying Jesus was John the Baptist come back from the dead, Elijah, or maybe some of the other prophets. There was confusion as to who Jesus was. They were right in that He was a prophet, but not a prophet like the other prophets.

Jesus then asks the disciples who they thought He was. Peter responds that He is the Messiah. They were right, but their understanding was off. They were looking for a Messiah to come and help them overthrow Rome so Israel could be a prosperous, powerful nation again, that would reign over all other nations. In response to their misunderstanding, Jesus responds to them in Mark 8:33, "You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's."

The disciples loved Jesus. This prediction of His death was a blow to their hopes and their time with Jesus. Peter was so taken back that he would rebuke Jesus for saying such things. How can He die? How can the Messiah, the one who would reign, die? He was to usher in the kingdom of God. He was to rule over all! How would He rule over all when He is dead? They only saw the prophecies they wanted to see. The Messiah would come to reign, but first He must suffer and die. They missed that part. Otherwise, sin would not be atoned for and its effect would not be defeated.

In their grief and in their misunderstanding, they needed something that would testify, give assurance, and eventually give understanding to the disciples of who Jesus is and what He came to do.

Let's read our passage. Mark 9:2-13.

Peter and John would both later refer to this event as eyewitnesses to Jesus as the Christ and to speak of the authority that they were given. 2 Peter 2:16-18, "For we did not follow cleverly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we ourselves heard this voice from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain." John says testifies to this in saying, "So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son." And in 1 John 1:1-4 he says, "We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy." Peter and John, both want us to know that this is not a fairy tale, but it is reliable. This was seen with their own eyes, experienced by them, and they want you and I to know and experience this great God, His love, forgiveness, and grace.

In a court of law, when there are multiple witnesses testifying of the same facts, it is considered real evidence. Is it possible that Jesus want the Peter, James, and John to go with Him for the purpose of three witnesses able to testify to the further revealing of the revelation that Jesus is the chosen one, the Messiah, the visible representation of the invisible God? Possibly. They were credible witnesses. And this event would give them clarity and boldness, even when the opposition came in hard.

We are going to break Mark 9:2-13 into 3 parts. The first, Jesus revealed as someone greater. Second, the rebuke to see Jesus as someone greater. And third, they got to see something they, you and I, would need later on.

Jesus revealed as someone greater.

Jesus led them up the mountain. Luke 9:28 says they went up to pray. As they were praying, Jesus appearance changed, He was transfigured. They began to see the glory of Jesus. It isn't something that could be fully described, so they used word pictures to best give us an idea of what they were experiencing. When John is having a vision in Revelation 1, he speaks of Jesus in a similar manner, "his face was like the sun shining in full strength."

This however was not a vision. It was not a dream. Luke does mention they fell asleep, but he clearly states, "but when they woke." They experience this in real life. The kingdom of God invaded the physical realm.

Peter seeing Jesus, Moses, and Elijah is so beside himself, and being who Peter is, blurted out without really thinking about what he was saying, "Rabbi, it's wonderful for us to be here! Let's make three shelters as memorials (or tabernacles) on for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah". Why does Peter say this? For one, they were terrified and he didn't know what to do, so he rashly spoke out. He put Jesus on the same level as Moses and Elijah.

Maybe that is a lesson for us to be quick to listen and slow to speak. Maybe it is good to stop and think about what is about to come out of our mouth. Maybe it is good to do as 2 Corinthians 10 says, and "and take every thought captive". Maybe it is good to take our thoughts and filter them through what God's word says.

Moses and Elijah represent the law and the prophets. They are considered two of the greatest prophets. Moses would bring redemption to the Hebrew people by leading them from being captive to salvation in the promised land. Elijah would boldly confront sin and worship of false gods and do miracles.

Moses was the mediator of a covenant. The difference is that the covenant that Moses mediated was temporal and conditional, whereas the covenant that Christ mediates is eternal and unconditional. Like Christ, Moses provided redemption for his people. Moses delivered the people of Israel out of slavery and bondage in Egypt and brought them to the Promised Land of Canaan. Christ delivers His people out of bondage and slavery to sin and condemnation and brings them to the Promised Land of eternal life on a renewed earth when Christ returns to consummate the kingdom He inaugurated at His first coming. Like Christ, Moses was a prophet to his people. Moses spoke the very words of God to the Israelites just as Christ did. Moses predicted that the Lord would raise up another prophet like him from among the people ([Deuteronomy 18:15](#)). Jesus and the early church taught and believed that Moses was speaking of Jesus when he wrote those words (cf. [John 5:46](#), [Acts 3:22](#), [7:37](#)). In so many ways, Moses' life is a precursor to the life of Christ. But, he was not Christ. He was not perfect. He was a mere man.

Jesus is the great High priest. There is no one greater. The Messiah was to come and bear the sin of the world upon Himself giving mankind the opportunity for redemption. No man could do that. No one was perfect enough. Hebrews 2:14-15 tells us, "Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could He die, and only by dying could He break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying." 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ." It was a one time sacrifice that was effective for all time. Hebrews 9:12 says, "With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever." It would take a perfect person to fit the need of a perfect sacrifice.

Hebrews 9 and 10 tells us that the first covenant, the Old Testament system of sacrifice was meant for worship on earth while we were in these frail human bodies that would die. It was a sacrificial system for sin that was incomplete. It was a precursor of a greater sacrifice that was not incomplete. Hebrews chapter 3 reminds us that Jesus is the great High Priest. The 'once and for all' priest. He would not administer a sacrifice to atone for sins once a year that only served to cover over sin, effectively

hiding our sin from God. He was not like the other high priests who would bring a sacrifice that was good for a year. He did not mediate between God and man only while He was alive on this earth, entering the Holy of Holies once a year as a guest. He was the Son of God. His sacrifice was eternal, once and for all. His sacrifice was enough to completely wash us clean of the stain of sin, making it possible for our consciences to be made clean before God. Hebrews 10:1 puts it this way, “The old system under the law of Moses was only a shadow, a dim preview of the good things to come, not the good things themselves. The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship.”

Jesus became the only true mediator. 1 Timothy 2:5 says it plainly, “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” No priest, no act, nothing can mediate for us.

Listen to Hebrews 10:11-18, “And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until His enemies should be made a footstool for His feet. For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,” then He adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.” Jesus is the great High priest. There is no priest, no mediator between God and man, but Jesus Christ. He is the only way to the Father.

Jesus had to suffer, the disciples couldn't get their head wrapped around that. But, He suffered to complete the old system. He suffered by being the sacrifice that would satisfy the shortcoming of the old system. Because of His obedience, the Father glorified Him. He was glorified in His obedience, His death, and in His resurrection.

The disciples got a glimpse of Jesus glorified. It served as an encouragement to them. It served as a reminder of what was to come. It served as a vivid picture that Jesus was the Messiah. He is the great High priest. He is the mediator between God and man. He is the chosen one,

the One whom all authority has been given. He is the eternal One. It was a picture that would remind them that physical death is not the end. It would be a confirmation of the power of Christ over death. Remember, Jesus, a week earlier told those following Him that if they wanted to follow Him, they must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow Him.” And as they went on with Jesus, they began to understand that they too would face suffering, but it would be their joy to suffer for their savior.

Our second piece this morning is the rebuke of Peter to see Jesus as someone greater. (read verses 7-9)

Matthew and Luke’s account both mention that *as Peter was speaking* the cloud overwhelmed them. This cloud represents God’s presence. We saw this in the cloud by day and the pillar by night when God led Moses and the Hebrew people out of Egypt. We saw this after the tabernacle was built, Exodus 40 says, “Then the cloud covered the Tabernacle, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle.”

Peter missed what was going on. He was seeing things merely from a human point of view.” He was putting Jesus, Moses, and Elijah on the same level. And, he was still in disbelief as to what Jesus said in regards to having to suffer and be raised again. So, Peter’s solution, make three tabernacles similar to the celebration of the festival of tabernacles. We will sit in this moment. Let’s usher in the kingdom of God now, this has to be the way to make the Messiah King and reign. We can circumvent this suffering and dying thing. But, what is voice’s rebuke, or response? “This is my dearly loved Son. Listen to Him.” Matthew adds, “in whom I am well pleased”. Luke adds, “Whom I have chosen.”

This should sound familiar. At Jesus’s baptism, God said, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.” Two times now we have heard God testify to who Jesus is. The first time was to Jesus, “You are my Son.” This time, Mark wants us to understand this was for the disciples. “This is my dearly loved Son.” God revealed to them who Jesus is.

There is more to this rebuke. God said very plainly, “Listen to Him.” Deuteronomy 18:15 says, “Moses continued, “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your fellow Israelites. You must

listen to him.” Moses says, there is someone coming like me, but greater than me. Listen to him.”

They were to listen to Jesus. They were to take their worldly thinking and let the words of Christ begin to overcome their minds. We do the same things. We let what we want to happen begin to infiltrate our beliefs. We take scripture and we add to it what we want it to say. “God wants us to be comfortable.” That isn’t scriptural. “We deserve...”. That isn’t scriptural. “You don’t deserve to have bad things happen.” That isn’t necessarily scriptural. “I have served, now it is time for someone else to serve.” That isn’t necessarily scriptural either. “God wants us to prosper.” Be careful how you interpret that.

Colossians 3:2 gives us a prescription to this problem. “Set your minds on things above.” Philippians 4:8 says, “Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” Romans 12:2 says, “but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think”. 2 Timothy 3:16 says, “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.” Ephesians 4 says, “Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.”

Verse 8 says, “Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus.” This is the culmination of the rebuke...only seeing Jesus. He is all we need. There is no other being, thing, thought, status we need. He is all we need. In Him alone eternal life is found. In Him alone is Truth found. In Him alone can one be truly satisfied. Moses and Elijah represent creation. Truth is not found in creation, or what creation brings to the table. Truth can be seen through the creation, but the fullness of truth is found in Christ. No where else.

The disciples missed who Jesus was. He was a friend. Not God. He was a teacher. Not the possessor of all knowledge. He was loving. He is also an all-consuming fire who will judge the living and the dead. He was human, but He healed the sick, calmed the raging storm, commanded the demons to leave, and more. They were afraid and mesmerized by things that just happened, but didn’t see that in Jesus was manifested that same power.

Jesus is greater and because He is greater, He is the One we listen to.

Please don't read into what I am about to say. I am not saying good or bad about all the "Christian patriots" that have been on the internet lately. But, I am going to warn that you don't get caught up in the emotion of it all and the many words being spoken. Really search the scriptures for what it says. They are not the authority on all that is going on. Jesus is. God's word is. We have to be very careful we don't let anything infiltrate our minds. Remember, there were people that said they spoke and did things in 'Jesus name' and yet He says, "I never knew you." That should strike, not fear, but a very fervent need to really know scripture and let scripture interpret scripture.

What we need to be caught up in is the gospel, telling the story of Christ, living out the commands of Christ. There are a lot of scriptural principles that need to be tended to first: Take the plank out of your own eye before pointing out the speck in someone else's eye; sure we are to have power in Christ, but we called to be humble first, we can judge where God has already judged, but we are called first and foremost to lay our life down for our enemy. Yes, Jesus said to pick up your sword, again, He also told us to be willing to lay down our life for even our enemy.

Jesus first and foremost. Jesus alone. Jesus above all others.

And third, they got to see something they, you and I, would need.

They got to see the glory of Jesus. They saw that He is who He says He is. They got to experience the power of Jesus over creation. They heard and saw that Jesus must suffer and so must those that follow Him. They needed to see Jesus in His glory, they needed to see Moses and Elijah's glorified bodies as an encouragement, as something to let them know that death is not it. Mark says, in verse 10 that they "often asked each other what He meant by 'rising from the dead'." They still didn't understand or grasp Jesus death and the power He had over death. They needed this event as a piece to the puzzle of Jesus as Messiah. He will suffer, but He will also rise. They needed this event as a reminder of who Jesus is.

Everyday we fight not against flesh and blood, but against the power and principalities of the air. There is a spiritual war going on around us all time. Sometimes it is fierce. Sometimes it is light. Sometimes it is so far in the background we don't realize it. We have an enemy that wants to devour the Christian, to make us look foolish in the worlds eyes. Spoiler alert... you will look foolish anyways. Listen to what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1:18, "The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God." God says He uses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. Walk boldly in our 'foolishness'. It isn't really foolishness. When we step into eternity, we will see that our foolishness is reality, and the world's reality will become foolish.

Jesus