

Jesus and The Transfiguration

Mark 9:1-13

I. In previous lessons it has been noted that Jesus' disciples had difficulties understanding who He was, **Mark 4:41**

II. And, as we look back over the Gospel of Mark we find that Jesus has been moving His disciples towards a greater understanding of who He is and the work He had come to accomplish.

III. But, because the religious world into which Jesus was born was so corrupt He had many obstacles to overcome.

1. Their view of the Christ.
2. Their view of the Law.
3. Their view of the Kingdom.

IV. They saw the Christ and His Kingdom as an earthly ruler on a physical throne and the Law had become more tradition of men than will of God.

V. Throughout Marks gospel Jesus has been dealing with these obstacles.

1. Through the miracles he has been establishing certain facts about the Christ.
2. Through His teachings Jesus has been clarifying what the Law really taught.
3. From the beginning Jesus had been pointing them towards the true kingdom.

VI. What we find though is that even after all Jesus has done His disciples still struggle with understanding what it means for Jesus to be the Christ, **Mark 8:29-33**

VII. What takes place following Peters proclamation drives home what it means for Jesus to be the Christ.

VIII. Ultimately the transfiguration of Jesus declares His preeminence.

Trans: Lets consider our first point

1. The transfiguration shows Jesus to be the fathers Messenger.

A. Mark 9:1-8

B. In verse 1 Jesus is speaking of the Kingdom of God. This verse bridges the proclamation of Peter and the transfiguration of Jesus.

1. Peter proclaimed Jesus to be the Christ
2. The transfiguration which takes place following this shows Jesus to be the Christ
3. As such He is Lord and as He is declared to be the Christ with glory in His transfiguration so too will His kingdom.
4. The connection between Jesus' transfiguration and His Kingdom coming with power emphasis the spiritual nature of both as well.

C. Six days after Jesus makes the statement concerning the Kingdom He takes Peter, James and John up to a high mountain, **v.2**

1. The scriptures say He was transfigured before them.
2. The word for transfigured denotes a changing of the actual form.
3. So Jesus did not simply glow but He actually went through a metamorphosis.
4. Jesus was in a glorified state.

D. As the Apostles looked on the saw two other figures, Elijah and Moses.

E. Peter believed he understood the significance of what was happening and wanted to build three tabernacles. Yet we see he was not certain what he was to do, **v.6**

F. The Father clarifies why this is taking place, He is proclaiming that Jesus is his Messenger and that He is the one they should be following from now on, **v.7**

Heb. 1:1,2

G. In that declaration God tells the disciples there is something else they need to understand about the Christ.

1. Elijah was a prophet who spoke on behalf of God
2. Moses also spoke on behalf of God by bringing forth the Law
3. All of that was going to change, Jesus was now speaking for God and he brought a new message, **John 1:17**

Appl: To see Jesus in His transfigured state with Elijah and Moses should spark something in the Apostles.

This should bring a clearer understanding that Jesus is a Messenger of the God.

But lest they think Elijah and Moses are on an equal par with Jesus, the Father proclaims, that Jesus is His beloved Son and they are to listen to Him.

Ultimately, The transfiguration of Jesus declares His preeminence.

Trans: Following His transfiguration Jesus tells His apostles not to relate this to anyone until He rises from the dead. This sparks another line of questions and takes us to our second point.

2. The transfiguration shows Jesus to be the Christ.

A. Mark 9:9-12

B. It is clear the apostles didn't understand what Jesus meant about the Son of Man rising from the dead.

C. The cause of their inability to understand was twofold.

1. They had been taught that Elijah was to come before the Christ. **Mal. 4:5**
2. They had just seen Elijah, so what did that mean?

D. As well it seems the apostles were challenging Jesus' claim that the Son of God must rise from the dead, **v.12**

1. They appeal to what the scriptures say about Elijah
2. Do they appeal to the same Scriptures in regards to what is to happen to the Christ?

E. Jesus brings them to a fuller understanding of the coming of Elijah when tells them that Elijah does come first, but it is not the Elijah they just saw, v13

1. They stated that Elijah "must come first"
2. Jesus states that Elijah "has indeed come"
3. Jesus clarifies who this Elijah is when He says, "and they did to him whatever they wished"
4. When this is said they understand whom Jesus is speaking of, **Matt. 17:13**

Appl: As we look to Jesus' transfiguration we cannot help but see that it shows Him to be the Christ.

The Father's proclamation that this is His beloved Son.

The explanation that Elijah was the forerunner of the Christ and that Elijah has already been their in the form of John.

And as the things spoken of Elijah has happened so the things regarding the Son of Man must also happen, and as such it declares Him to be the Christ as foretold in Scriptures.