

SERIES: **The Jesus Journey**

TEXT: **Mark 9:1-13**

There is a tension in the life of every disciple of Jesus:

- Suffering is a sign that something's off (John 10:10 abundant life)
- Jesus assuring us we *would* have suffering (John 16:33); (Philippians 1:29)

Jesus' first followers also wrestled with how glory and suffering unfolded

TITLE: **Glory & Suffering**

PRAY

Mark 9:1 Then he said to them, "Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God come in power."

Context:

- Peter's Confession of the Messiah
- Jesus' prediction of His suffering and death
- Peter's rebuke....and rebuking
- Jesus' command to take up our cross & follow Him (read 8:38)

The remainder of the book outlines the journey to Jerusalem, and unfolds the rising tension in the narrative between glory & suffering

The disciples at this point are beginning to understand the glory (this event will help solidify it)

But they are still unable to comprehend where suffering would have any part in the Messiah's plan

Mark 9:2a After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain by themselves to be alone.

Jesus took the three where He did not take the twelve

- I don't know why or even why them (plenty of speculation)
- I just know He did
- 2 insights:
 - Practical- ***the example of relational boundaries & depth***
 - Jesus didn't reveal His full glory to the 12, but the 3 (Transfiguration)
 - Jesus didn't reveal His deepest agony to the 12, but the 3 (Gethsemane)
 - Spiritual- ***not all who follow Jesus walk at the same distance***
 - I want to follow right on His heels
 - But again, the context is the tension between glory & suffering
 - Being brought deeper may not always look like glory, but often suffering

For now, these 3 will get to behold glory...the contrast to this verse is in the next section-

the other 9 are down on the ground and in the thick of a hectic situation they cannot overcome

Mark 9:2b-3 He was transfigured in front of them, ³and his clothes became dazzling—extremely white as no launderer on earth could whiten them.

He was transformed in the sense that His true nature was revealed (Ex. "Undercover Boss")

Psalms 104:1 My soul, bless the Lord! Lord my God, you are very great; you are clothed with majesty and splendor.

Why is it important that you and I see and recognize Jesus as the Glorious Righteous One?

It is Jesus' glory that will give meaning and weight to His suffering

Have you considered WHO took your place?

Colossians 1:15-20 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

¹⁶For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and by him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is also the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross

It is Jesus' glory that will give meaning and weight to *our* suffering

1Peter 4:12-13 Dear friends, don't be surprised when the fiery ordeal comes among you to test you, as if something unusual were happening to you. ¹³Instead, rejoice as you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may also rejoice with great joy when his glory is revealed.

Mark 9:4 Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.

Elijah= the prophets; Moses= the Law Jesus is the zenith of scripture; the gravitational pull

Luke 9:31 says they were speaking of His departure. The Greek word is 'exodus'!

Jesus would lead the people out of bondage, with a new Passover, His own blood, and gather to Himself not just a nation, but a church.

Mark 9:5-6 Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it's good for us to be here. Let's set up three shelters: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"— ⁶because he did not know what to say, since they were terrified.

Peter wants to prolong this mountain moment, but Jesus is focused on another mountain- Calvary

Peter's foolishness is comforting- **There is room for fools near Jesus**

A life with Jesus isn't for the worthy, for those who always say the right thing or do the right thing.
It's for the hungry, the needy, the sick, the fools,
the one's who say things they regret and do things they wish they could take back.
Even Mose and Elijah, they stand there as representatives of the law and prophets,
but Moses killed a man, and He disobeyed God enough to not enter the promised land.
Elijah became depressed and afraid and wanted God to kill him.

By offering equal shelters, Peter inadvertently places Moses, Elijah, and Jesus on the same level.

The Father's voice immediately corrects this misunderstanding

Mark 9:7-8 A cloud appeared, overshadowing them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my beloved Son; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

Their presence fades; Jesus alone remains.

The Father's instruction moves from *"Keep the Law; Heed the Prophets"* to *"Listen to My Son"*.

Hebrews 1:1-2 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets at different times and in different ways. ²In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son...

Scripture stands as a witness to Jesus; The Father stands as a witness to Jesus; the apostles stand as a witness; "listen to Him"- obedience to Jesus is the culmination of all revelation

Mark 9:9 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Why? Because they still don't understand. They get the glory, but they can't grasp the suffering

Mark 9:10-11 They kept this word to themselves, questioning what "rising from the dead" meant. ¹¹Then they asked him, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"

You can see, they're grappling with the concept- so they try to direct the conversation back to glory.

Malachi 4:5-6 says Elijah will come before the Messiah....we just saw Elijah... what R U waiting for now???

Why couldn't they grasp that the Messiah needed to suffer and die?

They were expecting the Messiah to be a great king like David, to overthrow their enemies like Rome.

Their expectations limited their vision. **They just wanted relief from the current problems.**

But **our appreciation of Jesus must go beyond what he can do for us here.**

We worship Him whether He answers our prayers how we want Him to or not, because what He has done for our souls is worthy of praise even if He never did anything else again!

If all Jesus ever do for you was die for your sins, would that be enough????

Mark 9:12-13 "Elijah does come first and restores all things," he replied. "Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be treated with contempt? ¹³But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did whatever they pleased to him, just as it is written about him."

Matthew 17:12-13 Elijah = John the Baptist

They killed him, the forerunner, what do you think they'll do to the Messiah?

On another mountain, Calvary, a contrasting scene would later unfold:

The Mt of transfiguration VS the Mt of crucifixion

- The glory is private – the suffering is a public spectacle
- Surrounded by 2 prophets – surrounded by 2 criminals
- His clothes shine pure white with glory – His clothes are stripped from Him in humiliation
- 3 male disciples view His glory near – 3 female disciples view His suffering from afar
- A divine voice proclaims He is the Son of God – a Roman soldier proclaims Him to be the Son of God
- The disciples ask if Eijah will come – the scoffers taunt "let's see if Elijah comes to take Him down"

Jesus, the glorious One, resolved to march the road of suffering.

Isaiah 53:11-12 After his anguish, he will see light and be satisfied.

By his knowledge, my righteous servant will justify many, and he will carry their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will give him the many as a portion, and he will receive the mighty as spoil, because he willingly submitted to death, and was counted among the rebels; yet he bore the sin of many and interceded for the rebels.

Here's the comfort, how this ties back to us-

The Glorious One suffered so that sufferers may be glorified

We live in the tension, but we know the outcome

The same Peter who didn't get it then, would later-

1 Peter 1:16-19 For we did not follow cleverly contrived myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; instead, we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For 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, with whom I am well-pleased!" ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice when it came from heaven while we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹We also have the prophetic word strongly confirmed, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

CALL UP WORSHIP TEAM

BULPEN-

Transfigured- metamorphōthē

charts a movement from sight of divine glory to sharing in that glory.

Romans 12:2 conformed (external pressure) transformed (internal change)

2 Corinthians 3:18 beholding and becoming are inseparable

2 Peter 1:16-18

“The scene fulfills Old Testament theophanic patterns—Moses and Elijah on a mountain, a cloud of divine presence, and the Father’s audible affirmation—demonstrating that in Jesus all prophetic and legal expectations converge.”

Matthew 5:17

Luke 24:27

Exodus 34:29–35; 1 Kings 19:8–18

Sinai- thorn

Carmel- garden

One buried by God, one taken up by God

Acts 3:22-23 underscores that ignoring Him has eternal consequences

True listening means reordering our schedule, choices, and relationships around His voice

Leviticus 23:39-43 commanded Israel to construct *temporary* booths each fall to celebrate God dwelling with His people.

Peter thought of booths; God offers believers something far better—the indwelling Holy Spirit

We can seek emotional mountaintops instead of ongoing obedience; God calls us to follow Jesus down the mountain to daily mission

We confuse spiritual highlights with ultimate fulfillment

Embrace God’s timing; some experiences are meant to pass so His larger redemptive plan can unfold

Listen before acting; obedience begins with hearing the Son

Proverbs 19:2

V1 ‘them’- who? 8:34 crowd & disciples

2 Peter 1:18 Mt Hermon most likely place (same mt as Abraham and Isaac), not Mt Tabor

Near Caesarea Philippi (Mark 8:27)

Mt Tabor was inhabited in the 1st century

Malachi 4:4-6 Moses and Elijah

Cloud overshadowed (enveloped)- recalls cloud of God's glory that filled the tabernacle

V1- what did Jesus mean?

Possibly- transfiguration, resurrection, Pentecost, or 2nd coming

V9 they wouldn't understand fully what they had witnessed until after they had also witnessed His resurrection

Romans 8:17 we will share in His glory, but we must first share in His suffering

Deuteronomy 18:15

Hebrews 1:3

Jesus is not reflecting glory as Moses did, He is emitting it

"Indeed, it is by beholding the glory of Christ that believers are first gradually transformed into His image and then brought into the eternal enjoyment of it because they shall be forever "like him; for we shall see him as he is" (1Jo 3:2; 2Co 3:18)." — John Owen, The Glory of Christ

"To behold the glory of Christ is ammunition against unbelief and power for sanctification."

"Every sight of Christ we take is an attack on every delight of sin left in our hearts."

-Newton

"We are not merely redeemed by the death of Christ; we are also redeemed by the life of Christ. His death on the cross reveals the nadir of His humiliation as He bears the curse for us. But that is only part of His redemptive achievement. It is not enough for us merely to have our sins atoned for. To receive the blessings of the covenant we must possess real righteousness. We need what we cannot supply for ourselves. This merit of righteousness is earned for us by Jesus' life of perfect obedience." – RC Sproul

By his death sin was taken away, by his resurrection righteousness was renewed and restored. For how could he by dying have freed us from death, if he had yielded to its power? How could he have obtained the victory for us, if he had fallen in the contest? Our salvation may be thus divided between the death and the resurrection of Christ: by the former sin was abolished and death annihilated; by the latter righteousness was restored and life revived, the power and efficacy of the former being still bestowed upon us by means of the latter.

John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion, II, xvi, 13.

Romans 4:25 He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

On Romans 4:25:

https://www.patheos.com/blogs/adrianwarnock/2017/04/raised-justification-romans-425-forgotten-verse/?utm_source=chatgpt.com