

THE GOSPEL of

MARK

This is My Son

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This is My
Son

Where we are in the Gospel of Mark...

- Jesus has just asked the question “who do you say that I am?” to Peter
- Peter confesses Jesus is the Christ but then tries to rebuke Jesus for talking about how he will suffer
 - But Jesus rebukes Peter “You are not setting your mind on the things of God, but rather the things of man.”
- Jesus teaches about what it means to follow him
 - Finishes teaching by saying to them, “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.” (Mark 9:1)

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Mark
9:2-12

² After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

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

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

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Mark
9:2-12

⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

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

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

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

The Transfiguration

1. The Veil of Humanity Lifted

- Peter, James & John catch a glimpse of Jesus' divinity
- Moses & Elijah – the Law & the Prophets
- The Cloud – symbol of God's presence and protection
- “This is my beloved Son; listen to him” – God identifies Jesus as his Son and the Prophet who would come from Deuteronomy 18:15... “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him.”
- Moses & Elijah disappear leaving Jesus alone – Jesus would establish the new covenant on his own

The Transfiguration

1. The Veil of Humanity Lifted

2. Glory without Suffering

- Peter's response exposes that he doesn't understand that what he has witnessed is only a glimpse and that Jesus must suffer, be rejected and die before his mission is accomplished
- Peter also expresses something very human – we all want to “camp” in those moments

The Transfiguration

1. The Veil of Humanity Lifted

2. Glory without Suffering

3. The Stage Has Already Been Set

- Elijah has come already – John the Baptizer
 - Further study: see similarity of Elijah & John through Elijah's story (Ahab & Jezebel/Herod & Herodias, food, etc.)
- God's plan was about to happen exactly as he said it would
- All the elements of Jesus' life were already set and would fulfill the 300+ OT prophecies about him

What we Can Take Home With Us...

1. Seeing is not Believing

- Miracles and experiences do not produce faith but rather are meant to be a supplement to faith
- Rom 10:17 – faith comes from hearing the message of Christ
- Our “mountaintop” experiences (glimpses of God’s glory) are not where we need to dwell, but rather are meant to propel us into our regular life, our everyday walk with Jesus and to the work God has for his people

What we Can Take Home With Us...

1. Seeing is not Believing

2. Take Heart! God is not Done With You Yet

- The example of Peter is very encouraging for us
- Peter has moments of clarity, but it takes a long time for him to understand who Jesus really is
- God is patient with you and is taking you one small step at a time on a journey towards Him
 - 2 Cor 3:18... And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
- His desire is for you to trust him – that he knows best

What we Can Take Home With Us...

1. Seeing is not Believing
2. Take Heart! God is not Done With You Yet
3. This is My Beloved Son; Listen to Him
 - The common human struggle is to give up your own ideas of what your life needs to look like
 - What do you do when the teaching from the Bible doesn't fit your experience or circumstance, or your idea of what your life should look like?
 - Consequences: 1. disappointment with God and despair or 2. re-alignment to trust that your life is in God's hands and his desires and plans for you are good