

Sermon Based Small Group: Mark 9:1-13

More. Jesus... Glory is Coming

Introduction

- When you picture heaven, what do you see? Work, play? Suffering, Joy? Worship?

Reviewing the Teaching

- Read Mark 9:1-13.
- What stood out to you as a potentially significant takeaway in this week's teaching?
 - Why did it stand out?
 - How does it relate to you in your life situation now?
- Future Glory (1-8)
 - This is a picture of future glory like the one first shown to Moses.
 - We can be hard on Peter for his response. What did he do? Why do you think he did what he did?
 - Who is Jesus? Is he a rabbi or something else?
 - Jesus is the second Moses, leading his people through a much greater Exodus. We aren't escaping Egypt – we're escaping the penalty of sin. Jesus is the greater Elijah whose suffering will bring life to all people.
 - Jesus is the reason we can persevere through suffering... because we know Glory is Coming.
 - In Jesus, God is dwelling among us, and living on this side of history, he is offering to dwell within us.
 - Do you want the first or the second, the lesser or the greater?
- Present Suffering (9-13)
 - We persevere through suffering because we know glory is coming.
 - "Do not tell anyone." Is this a bit confusing?
 - Jesus did not want the focus to be on a small view of God, but on a view of God after the resurrection. The view of God after the resurrection is of a great God. It would take the disciples some time to discover this. So He tells them to wait.
 - Read Malachi 4:5, 6.
 - How did Elijah come? What happened to him? (Mark 6:16)
 - There is an implication here. Persevere because glory is coming. There is no shortcut. There is no alternate path.
 - How will you approach life as it exists?

Digging Deeper

- Read Exodus 24:24:15-16. Consider the whole event where Moses went up the mountain and came back. Now compare it to our passage in Mark 9. What comparisons do you see? Describe how Jesus is much greater.
- Read 1 Kings 19:3-5. Compare Elijah to Moses. One is glorious and the other suffers.
- Isaiah 9:6, 7 and 53:3-5 present two contrasting views of the Messiah. This is one of the great tensions in the Gospels. What are these views?
- Read Malachi 4:5, 6. Compare this to Mark 9: 12, 13. John the Baptist is related to Elijah.
 - What happened to John?
 - Relate that to Malachi.
- Read Hebrews 1:3 and John 1:14 (dwelt literally means tabernacled).
- A tabernacle, or a temple, is where people go to meet God. There is a gap between people and God and in the temple we find a way to bridge, or mediate, that gap. When Jesus stops the building of a tabernacle, He is saying that He is the tabernacle. He is the way that we meet with God.
 - *First, see how Jesus fulfills all the strains of prophecy. The voice from the cloud, just as at Jesus' baptism (Mark 1:11) mingles the predictions of the divine Son from heaven (Psalm 2:7 — "you are my son") with the prediction of the suffering servant (Isaiah 42:1*

— “in whom my soul delights”). The Old Testament predicts the coming both of a powerful divine King (see Isaiah 1-39) and a Suffering Servant (see Isaiah 40-55). Jesus fulfills all these “strains” of prophecy. They converge upon him. For example, he will be God, Isaiah 9:6; yet will suffer, Isaiah 53. How could both be true? Jesus shows how they can both be true of one person. Note: Also compare Daniel 7 (which talks of the “Son of Man” who will return from heaven with God’s kingdom). Daniel 7:9 describes the Son of Man as having dazzling white clothes, like Jesus had in the transfiguration (v. 3).

- Second, Jesus not only fulfills the prophets, he also fulfills all of the Mosaic revelation of the Law. On the one hand, he fulfills the law by obeying it perfectly. On the other hand he fulfills all the tabernacle service, for he is the sacrifice, the priest, and the house of God himself. How can God be completely holy and still accept and save his flawed and wayward people? The answer is that Jesus is not only the perfectly glorious and holy God, but also the one who offers himself as a sacrifice to cleanse us and bring us to God. (Keller, Gospel of Mark, pp. 106 - 107)

Applying it to Life

- The writer here, Mark, worked closely with Peter. Picture Mark and Peter chatting as Peter tells Mark this story. How would Peter look back on his life? Do you think he learned some lessons?
- The Way of the Cross is the Way of Glory. Is this a true statement? How are they connected?
- God speaks from the cloud in Mark 9:7. How are you going to respond to God’s words?
- The story in Mark is of people whose view of God was too small. People wanted a God who would free them from Roman oppression and bring material prosperity. What they got was freedom from sin and the glorious kingdom of God. They wanted a prophet, but God came as well.
 - Read 1 Corinthians 4:16-18.
 - A recurring theme in the Bible is of people fighting for the less and never seeing the more. We cannot see past “light affliction” to “weight of glory”.
 - How can your daily quiet time change your perspective?
 - How can inviting someone to church change your perspective?
 - What are you waiting for?

Prayer

- Pray for an effective quiet time. Make a commitment to invite someone to church. Pray for that person.
- Continue to pray for specific needs in your group.
- Is there something else from the message that you would like to pray about?