

MARKED

A LIFE TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

Transfiguration:

Power in Restraint

Mark 9:2-10

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I. Mountains are important.

- a. Whenever there are mountains in the Bible, something BIG is about to happen.
 - i. Mt. Sinai: One of the BIGGEST events in the Old Testament happened on a Mountain – The 10 Commandments.
 - ii. This is where God meets us and reveals Himself.
- b. “Jesus led them up a mountain to be alone” – When we need strengthening, we often need to be alone.
 - i. We are tested with others, but we are instructed alone.
 - ii. Our biggest transformations often happen when no one is looking, when we are alone.
 - iii. Jesus often withdrew – If Jesus needed it, we need it!
 - 1. Jesus was instructing us in how He lived His life.
 - 2. Withdrawing is not always convenient. The disciples were confused, and even irritated by this at times.
- c. Mountains are prominent in Jesus' ministry: on mountains he prays (6:46; Luke 6:12; John 6:15), preaches (3:13; Matt 5:1), performs miracles (Matt 15:29; John 6:3), is tempted (Matt 4:8), calls his disciples (3:13; Luke 6:12), sends them into mission (Matt 28:16), and accomplishes his passion (11:1; 14:32; 15:22).¹

II. Peter and the disciples needed a “mountain” experience.

- a. Knowledge that is not applied diminishes in value.
 - i. “Faith without works is dead” – James 2:20
 - ii. Our faith is lived out in our hands, not our heads.
- b. Peter confessed that Jesus is the Messiah, but he is still struggling.
 - i. This was six days after Peter had confessed Christ and Jesus rebuked him.
 - ii. Jesus is correcting and redefining their view of “Messiah”:
 - 1. They wanted Jesus to give them a better “Jewish” life.
 - 2. Jesus came to give a “New Life” to everyone.
- c. Why the “mountain-top experience?”
 - i. The disciples needed confidence in Who Jesus is.
 - ii. What did they see?
 - 1. Jesus was “transfigured” (*metamorphoo*):
 - a. To change into another form.
 - b. Jesus revealed His deity/divine nature.
 - 2. Light came from Jesus:
 - a. Moses “reflected” the glory of God.
 - b. Jesus “IS” the Light.

¹ *The Gospel According to Mark* (The Pillar New Testament Commentary (PNTC)) . Eerdmans Publishing Co - A.

3. They heard God's affirmation: "This is my Son...listen to Him!"
 4. Moses and Elijah: The fulfillment of the law/prophecies and the final deliverance.
- d. These "experiences" cement and solidify what we know to be true.
 - i. When we see the glory of God, we are changed. When we clearly see God, our lives are MARKED and changed forever (2 Peter 1:16-21).
 - ii. Having an accurate view of Jesus is essential in our transformation, in our discipleship.
 - iii. Discipleship is as you go, as you walk. This is on-the-job training.
 - e. Faith is still required; we are saved by faith (Ephesians 2:8, Hebrews 11:1-3).

III. We don't live on mountains.

- a. Living on a "mountain" distorts our view of God.
 - i. Jesus is God "with us." Our walk with God is lived out with others, as we come down from the mountain.
 - ii. We equate God with continual amazement.
 - iii. "A wrong view of Messiahship leads to a wrong view of discipleship."²
- b. Peter wanted to stay in the "experience."
 - i. Seeing the unexplainable can cause us to fear and revert to what we used to do.
 1. Build a memorial: God became a place to him.
 2. Peter's strength – willing to act. Peter's challenge – restraint.
 - ii. Peter missed the greatness of Jesus by placing Him on the same level as Moses and Elijah.
- c. Following Jesus is not about a place, Jesus is in us – we are HIS temple.
 - i. "Judaism held onto the hope that God would once again tabernacle with his people as in the Exodus."³
 - ii. Peter discovers that Jesus is establishing a new tabernacle – us. Jesus is transforming us so that He can dwell in us (1 Peter 2:5).
 - iii. The key underlying principle is that God now dwells with us – "The word become flesh and it dwelt among us..." (John 1:14).

Reflection Questions:

- Have I experienced God? How has this affected me?
- Do I have an accurate view of God? Am I living for Christ or for the "experience?"
- How am I applying what I know to be true about Jesus?
- Am I talking time to be alone with God – withdraw from the crowd? Where does my life need strengthening, correction, healing?

² *The Gospel According to Mark* (The Pillar New Testament Commentary (PNTC)) . Eerdmans Publishing Co - A.

³ Ibid.