



The Gospel of Mark

A Living Word Independent Bible Study



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Part 23

Mark 9:8-10

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Mark 9:8-10 (NIV)

INTRODUCTION

We pick up the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus again immediately after God's pronouncement that "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

This pronouncement has affirmed the absolute authority of all of Jesus' teaching.

We have seen that Peter's error in requesting to put up shelters was to equate Jesus with Moses and Elijah.

Jesus is categorically different from the other two, as the unique Son of God.

Now, as the cloud lifts – no one is present except Jesus!

Mark 9:8 (NIV)

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

“they no longer saw anyone”

Elijah and Moses have now faded from view.

Jesus is supreme now, and only Jesus can accomplish God’s redemptive plan.

Jesus now fills the disciples’ entire vision.

This is an invitation to us, too, to see only Jesus as God’s fully sufficient gift for us.

In 9:1, Jesus had referred to those who would not taste death before seeing the Kingdom come in power:

Mark 9:1 – “And he said to them, ‘I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.’”

Peter, James, and John have now seen the enthroned Jesus, in his true form, affirmed by God the Father.

The Kingdom IS PRESENT, IN POWER, in the transfigured Jesus!

Mark 9:9 (NIV)

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.

“orders not to tell anyone”

Once again, the command to silence signals that the disciples have seen something that is central to the gospel, but that is not to be proclaimed until after Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Remember that in 8:30, at Peter’s confession of Christ, Jesus gave a similar command not to talk about Jesus’ Messianic identity yet:

Mark 8:30 – “Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.”

This time, the command is given with the qualifier, “until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.”

AFTER the Resurrection, all the stories about Jesus can be told, because the Resurrection points to the truth of the kind of Messiah Jesus is.

Mark 9:10 (NIV)

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

“they kept the matter to themselves”

This is obedience to Jesus.

It is implied they did not even tell the other disciples.

“discussing what ‘rising from the dead’ meant”

“Debating” might be a better translation than

“discussing”.

They are probably NOT confused about a belief in the general resurrection to come.

Rather, they are probably debating the relationship between Jesus’ personal resurrection, that he referred to in his passion prediction as well as here, and the scribes’ teaching about the coming of Elijah prior to the end days.

This becomes the subject of their conversation with Jesus in the next section, to be covered in the next session.

Mark 9:8-10 (NIV)

SUMMARY

Moses and Elijah are gone.

Even though they have played their part in the salvation story, they now yield to Jesus, who alone accomplishes salvation for humanity.

Jesus is in continuity with them, but because of who he is and what he brings – the Kingdom of God – he is the final authority, even over Moses and Elijah.

But this truth is not ready to be fully revealed yet. Until the Resurrection of Jesus is accomplished, the events and experiences giving testimony to it must be held privately.



Bibliography

The following materials have been used as sources for this Bible study:

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