

# Glory

## Glimpses of the Glory of God

Mark 9

February 11, 2018

### **DAY 1: The Dazzling Picture of Glory**

*Mark 9:2 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.*

<sup>3</sup> *His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.*

<sup>4</sup> *And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.*

<sup>5</sup> *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."*

<sup>6</sup> *(He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)*

<sup>7</sup> *Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"*

<sup>8</sup> *Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.*

1. In the previous chapter of Mark, Jesus speaks very plainly about His coming suffering and death. Peter, of course, was stunned, as were the rest of the disciples. Peter, James and John are invited to walk up the mountain with Jesus. What they see is completely unexpected, and seems to be the complete opposite of Jesus' talk of His approaching suffering and death.

2. Jesus is "transfigured" right before them. It's as if the three disciples get a glimpse of what Jesus will look like in heaven—after his death, resurrection and ascension!

3. The dazzling white they see is a picture of the holiness of the Lord.

4. Who also is brought back for this transfiguration?

5. After Peter, at a rare loss for words stammers out some nonsense about building three shelters, who talks next, and what is said?

6. If you had been Peter what would you have thought as this scene unfolds

## **DAY 2: The Death of Glory**

*Mark 9:9 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.*

<sup>10</sup> *They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what "rising from the dead" meant.*

1. After walking back down the mountain, the “real world” comes roaring back into view. The disciples were dumbfounded, and you can’t blame them. Has anyone ever claimed to rise from the dead, but also given a timeframe—three days?!

2. But their dumbfounded-ness is at least shattered somewhat by what just happened right in front of them. Moses and Elijah show up, one dead for 1,500 years, the other for about 1,000 years! Something otherworldly and miraculous is happening again. This prompts their next question.

*Mark 9:11 And they asked him, "Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"*

3. The prophet Malachi prophesied just this thing. “Elijah must come first.” Then they saw Elijah standing next to Jesus. The disciples thinking runs along these lines: “Elijah is supposed to come. He came. The Day of Lord is next, right? So why all this talk about your death and rising from the dead?”

*Mark 9:12 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?"*

4. Jesus is saying, “You have the prophecy correct, not the correct meaning of the prophecy. But just because Elijah comes, doesn’t mean My mission is any different.”

*Mark 9:13 But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him."*

5. The “Elijah” Malachi was talking about wasn’t THE Elijah but a figure like Elijah. Jesus solves the “Elijah” mystery by identifying John the Baptist as the Elijah figure. What did they do to him? Had him arrested and then executed.

6. What is Jesus trying to help them understand? “JUST AS ELIJAH’S COMING WAS A HERALD OF THE LORD’S COMING, SO ‘ELIJAH’S’ (John the Baptist) EXECUTION IS A HERALD OF THE LORD’S EXECUTION.”

### **DAY 3: The Vision of Glory**

1. Think about this episode on the mountain. What strikes you about:

a. Of revealing the shekinah glory on Jesus in this dazzling way?

b. God showing up in this supernatural way?

c. Speaking out of the cloud?

2. Jesus is now on the road to his suffering and death. He's put words to this, repeatedly and specifically.

3. On a human level, this is the equivalent of you going to the doctor and receiving this test result: (a) You have terminal cancer. (b) You have three months to live. (c) As far as pain and suffering goes, it's the worst there is. You would leave the doctor's office as rattled as you could be rattled. What things would go through your mind, and what things would you be feeling as you heard this daunting news?

4. But on the mountain, God intervenes to give Jesus another picture, a future of vision of what life will be like on the other side of the cross.

*Hebrews 12:2 (RSV) ... looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, despising its shame and is seated at the right hand of God.*

5. On the mountain, God was saying something like this to Jesus. "You are going to undergo the worst suffering anyone has ever been through and it won't even be close. You will die. But the benefits to the people who see what you've done will break the chains of self and sin and bring them to a place of seeking God as their first love. When any sinner sees you on the cross, paying their price for their sin, some will be broken by their sin, repent, and discover the wonder of what the resurrected Christ can do inside their redeemed hearts. And, finally, someday, all will see the wonder of Your glory like they saw it on that mountain. Keep your eyes on that day!"

6. The effect on Jesus is what we call "worship." In the midst of overwhelming difficulties, excruciating suffering, worship reminds us the character and nature of God, that His plan for our lives is good no matter how it looks at any one time, and that when God writes the last chapter of our lives, and the epilogue, we will worship again.

## **DAY 4: The Power of Glory**

1. Off the spiritual high of the mountain and back into the horrors of daily life, and a reminder of why Jesus came in the first place.

*Mark 9:14 When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them.*

<sup>15</sup> *As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.*

<sup>16</sup> *"What are you arguing with them about?" he asked.*

<sup>17</sup> *A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech.*

<sup>18</sup> *Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."*

2. The reality of evil is evident in this scene. The man's son is possessed by a demon. The father is powerless to do anything, the disciples are powerless to do anything, and the religious leaders are powerless to do anything.

3. Not everyone is possessed by a demon in this way. That said, Paul tells us in the book of Ephesians that everyone fights a battle against Satan whether or not they know it. The most obvious battles against Satan are temptations, and that voice you hear in your head that feeds you half-truths or lies about yourself, others, or God.

*Mark 9:19 "O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."*

<sup>20</sup> *So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.*

<sup>21</sup> *Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered.*

<sup>22</sup> *"It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."*

<sup>23</sup> *"If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."*

<sup>24</sup> *Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"*

<sup>25</sup> *When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."*

<sup>26</sup> *The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead."*

<sup>27</sup> *But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.*

<sup>28</sup> *After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"*

<sup>29</sup> *He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."*

4. There are several things that strike me about this story.

a. The disciples and the religious leaders underestimated the power of evil. That is certainly true in our day, or worse, we minimize the power of evil.

b. Their assumption was that they should be able to overcome evil through their efforts. This a picture of our human pride. "We know what to do."

c. But the glory of God was on display, the power to overcome evil and to defeat it!

## DAY 5: The Wonder of Glory

1. There is one more picture of the glory of God I'd like us to recognize in this story.
2. Think of the people who were present when the boy possessed by a demon was making a mockery of them all. The Jewish leadership, Jesus' closest disciples and the boy's dad.
3. If you had walked on to this scene, which ones would you have assumed could have done something to help the boy?
4. We are told that the disciples tried but were completely unsuccessful in dealing the demonic power displayed in the boy.
5. We aren't told what the religious leaders did, but it's easy to assume they tried nothing.
6. At what point does the solution to the problem BEGIN? What is the beginning to the road toward a solution?
7. Amazingly, it's the father who begins the movement toward a solution! What was he "did?"
8. No one acknowledges their weakness and inability except one man—the father.
9. The faith of the man, though awfully weak was tempered with the most important quality—humility. "Help my unbelief."
10. It's at this point that Jesus "takes over." What is the essence of His response toward the man?
11. On what basis does Jesus then demonstrate His power over evil?
12. Jesus acts, NOT because the father had strong faith, or was a spiritual titan. It was the opposite! He freely, and humbly admitted his need, then asked Jesus for help. How **should** this be an encouragement to you?