

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

[Mar 9:1-38 NKJV] 1 And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power." 2 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was **transfigured before them. 3 His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them. 4 And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. 5 Then Peter answered**

and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"-- 6 because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid. 7 And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" 8 Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus with themselves. 9 Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead. 10 So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant.

So let's talk about the transfiguration –

This account is also recorded in Matthew and Luke

(Matt. 16:28—17:13; Luke 9:27–36)

We are not going to look at those passages today, I want you to look at them on your own time.

I will however, reference a few things from Matthew and Luke's accounts.

Jesus takes these three disciples up a mountain – we are not told what mountain it is but many bible scholars appear to agree that it is Mt. Hermon because of its proximity to the Caesarea Philippi –

Mt. Hermon is the highest mountain in the Middle East. It sits almost 10,000 feet above sea level – the peaks are filled

with snow 9 out of the 12 months of the year – this is where the Jordan River begins.

So Jesus takes Peter, James and John – these were the same three guys that Jesus brought in the room when He healed Jairus' daughter back in chapter 5.

Here, He gives these three guys a sneak preview of things to come.

And Jesus does this through His transfiguration.

In verse two, the Greek word that is used for transfigured is the word *metamorphoo* – this is where we get our word metamorphosis – to change into another form, not merely a change in outward appearance.

One example would be the metamorphosis would be a cocoon to a butterfly or a moth.

I found it interesting that this Greek word is only found **four times** in the New Testament.

We find it here in Mark and we also find it in Matthew's account of the same event. But we also find it in two of Paul's letters.

[Rom 12:2 NKJV] 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what [is] that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

[2Corinthians 3:18 NKJV] 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are

being **transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Paul uses the same word to describe our own metamorphosis as we mature in our walk by drawing closer Him.

Luke's account tells us that Jesus was praying when the transfiguration happened.

And God uses prayer to change us.

We find peace through prayer and we also find direction through prayer.

Always remember that being in the midst of His presence changes us. So it is important that we have that constant fellowship with Him.

Look at verse three again...

3 His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.

Keep in mind that the Gospel of Mark is Peter's account of what happened as he walked alongside Jesus. And as Peter recounts this event to Mark, it is hard for him to use words to describe Jesus' transfiguration.

No amount of bleach or Oxy clean would be able to get our whites as white as Jesus clothes were that day.

In Matthew's account, he writes that the face of Jesus was like the sun.

You see, what Peter, James and John saw that day on top of the mountain was a glimpse of what Jesus had been as well

as what He was going to be after His resurrection and ascension into heaven.

The transfiguration itself is not the miracle.

The true miracle is that Jesus concealed His glory as He walked among us in human flesh.

As He took the form of a servant, as He humbled Himself and was obedient to the Father – even to death.

So Jesus is on the mountain top with the three disciples and they are suddenly joined by two other guys. So now there are 6 guys up on the mountain.

Elijah and Moses –

Why Elijah and Moses?

Well, Moses was the lawgiver – he represents that law.

Elijah was considered the greatest prophet in the Old Testament, as the ministry that God called him upon was to bring the Children of Israel back to God.

Together, they represent the Old Testament. And here we see both the law and the prophets are the witness of the Scriptures to who Jesus is.

Now, we don't know how the disciples knew it was Moses and Elijah, we don't know if they wore name tags or if the disciples had a picture of them to recognize them.

All we know is that the scriptures tell us that they recognized them and that Jesus, Moses and Elijah have a lengthy discussion among themselves.

What are they talking about???

Luke's account tells us that Jesus spoke to them about the death that we was about to suffer in Jerusalem.

As all of this is happening before the disciple's eyes, Peter decides to ruin the moment. Good ole Peter.

Now, Peter makes a few mistakes as he suggested that they make three tabernacles – one for Jesus, one for Elijah and one for Moses.

1. The first mistake that Peter makes is that he spoke. No one asked him anything – he simply suggested it. We have to remember that sometimes if we don't know what to say, it is best not say anything.

2. Peter is suggesting that Jesus is equal with Elijah and Moses. Jesus was more than simply greater than Elijah and Moses; He is the Son of God.

Let's look at verse seven again.

[Mar 9:7 NKJV] 7 And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"

Throughout scripture, we find a reference to this cloud of God's glory also known as the Shekinah.

In the books of Exodus and Numbers, God repeatedly spoke to Moses and the people through a cloud.

In the book of Leviticus, God would appear to the priests in this cloud inside the veil as well.

And God spoke to others from within this cloud.

In Matthews account, it states that when the disciples heard the words coming from the cloud – they fell down and were greatly afraid.

It was at this point that Jesus went to them and when they looked up, Elijah and Moses had left already.

Now turn with me to 2 Peter 1,

Because Peter not only gives this account of the transfiguration to Mark, He also writes about it in one of his epistles.

[2Pe 1:16-18 NKJV] 16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were

eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

Peter wants to make it known that what they were eyewitnesses to what they saw and what they heard on the mountaintop.

Yet it is important to note that the experience itself did not transform their lives.

We are going to see Peter deny Jesus Christ three times.

We are going to see the other disciples abandon Jesus as well.

Most of them didn't believe when they were told that Jesus had resurrected.

Only being born again by the Spirit of God transformed them, giving them boldness beyond measure.

The transfiguration was awesome, but it was a passing experience until they were born again.

And that is the sad thing about many people today as they search after religious experiences instead of allowing the Spirit of God to transform them.

Religious experiences cannot sustain us.

Once we come down from the mountain top, we are going to be attacked – we are going to undergo trials, and if all we have is a religious experience – we will fail.

Jesus then commands the disciples not to tell anyone –

The disciples still did not understand every aspect of the gospel. They didn't grasp the suffering portion yet – they didn't understand the resurrection portion yet.

Always remember that a gospel without Jesus Christ on the cross and the shedding of blood for the remission of sins – is an incomplete gospel – it is a false gospel.

11 And they asked Him, saying, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" 12 Then He answered and told them, "Indeed, **Elijah is coming first and restores all things. And how is it written concerning the Son of Man, that He must suffer many things and be treated with contempt? 13 "But I say to you that Elijah **has also****

come, and they did to him whatever they wished, as it is written of him."

As the disciples, along with Jesus, start walking back down the mountain, they make an attempt to fit all the pieces together.

We saw last week that God was the one that had given Peter the revelation that Jesus is the Messiah.

However, Jesus also told them that He was going to suffer and die and rise again.

So they are trying to fit all the pieces together and then they start asking Jesus about Elijah.

Turn to the book of Malachi,

[Mal 4:5-6 NKJV] 5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. 6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

If Jesus is indeed the Messiah, then where is Elijah?

Jesus told them that the Elijah prophecy in Malachi would indeed be fulfilled. However, the prophecy of Elijah's coming had to do with Jesus' second coming, not His first, and Elijah would likely return in connection with one of the two witnesses that we see in Revelation 11:2-13

So yes, Elijah is still supposed to come however, Jesus also says that he already has come – and that is the person of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist did minister in the role and spirit of Elijah.

14 And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them.

15 Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to [Him], greeted Him. 16

And He asked the scribes, "What are you discussing with them?" 17 Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. 18 "And wherever it seizes him, it throws him

down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they

should cast it out, but they could not." 19 He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." 20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. 21 So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. 22 "And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." 23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things [are] possible to him who believes." 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my

unbelief!" 25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" 26 Then [the spirit] cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. 28 And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" 29 So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

As they come down the mountain Jesus finds that some of the scribes are disputing with some of His disciples.

The reason for the dispute is that this group of disciples has not been able to free this young boy from the demon that torments him.

Keep in mind that Jesus had already given the disciples authority over unclean spirits.

So this group of disciples couldn't heal this boy – yet we see the persistence of his father who brings his son to Jesus.

But before Jesus heals the son, Jesus challenges the father on his own faith.

You see, the father was not even sure that Jesus would be able to cast out the demons. Notice how the father

addresses Jesus in the second half of verse 22, “But if you can do anything...

He is skeptical.

So Jesus challenges his faith.

**[Mar 9:23-24 NKJV] 23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things [are] possible to him who believes."
24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"**

When we trust God as true and all His promises as true, all things He promises are possible.

Now, we have to be cautious here because many take this into thinking that the power comes from within ourselves.

And they preach a false message that says "We can do

ANYTHING if we put your mind to it".

The truth is, we can't do "ANYTHING" apart from what has been given to us. **The power is in Jesus.**

Listen, no amount of faith can cure us from cancer if it isn't a part of God's will.

Nowhere in scripture are we promised a life void of any hardships. In fact, Paul tells us in the book of Philippians that we will suffer for His sake.

The father responds with a little faith, but asks Jesus to help him with his unbelief.

Here is our application for this portion,

We should never be afraid to admit where we are weak.

Sometimes we get the feeling that we need to put on a front of being a strong believer when deep down inside we know that we struggle with trusting God at times.

It's okay to admit that we need help. Jesus doesn't rebuke the man for this confession, He helps him.

In reality, Jesus is looking for honesty from us.

Jesus responds to this fellow by delivering his son.

If we are feeling like your faith is weak today – we need to ask Jesus for help.

Now, the question becomes, why were the disciples not able to cast out this demon?

Verse 29 states that Jesus told them that the deliverance of this demon required fasting and prayer – **in other words, it required discipline.**

Prayer strengthens our faith muscles.

The disciples lacked the discipline to cast out this particular demon.

Always remember that our faith must be cultivated through our spiritual discipline and devotion to Jesus Christ.

30 Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know [it]. 31 For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day." 32 But they did not understand this saying, and

were afraid to ask Him. 33 Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?" 34 But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who [would be the] greatest. 35 And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." 36 Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, 37 "Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me."

Jesus once again explains to His disciples everything that is supposed to happen to Him and the disciples do not understand.

This is the third time where Jesus speaks to them regarding His upcoming suffering and they still can't grasp it.

Their mindset was still on Jesus ruling. They were too busy arguing amongst themselves who was going to be His right hand man.

When Jesus questions them in verse 33, they were embarrassed and did not answer Jesus.

However, Jesus knew what they were arguing about.

You see the disciple's definition of greatest is the definition of what the world perceives as greatest.

They were looking for power, they were looking for status, they were looking for adoration, and they were looking to be served.

Jesus wants to define what “greatest” means in the kingdom of God and challenges them to be last instead of being first. By humbling ourselves and serving others.

You see, position in God’s kingdom isn’t determined by status but by service.

This is what Jesus demonstrated as He washed the disciple’s feet.

In an effort to teach them His disciples to have a servant heart, Jesus uses the child because He wanted His disciples to exhibit certain qualities of a child.

You see, children are vulnerable and dependent on others.

In the same way, we need to be open and vulnerable to Jesus and depend on Him.

To receive Jesus is to receive Him like a child, in humble dependence, not pride.

I finish the study with this quote from Martin Luther,

“God creates out of nothing. Therefore, until a man is nothing, God can make nothing out of him.”

Always remember that pride hinders the work of God in our lives. May we truly humble ourselves and learn to serve one another.

Amen.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

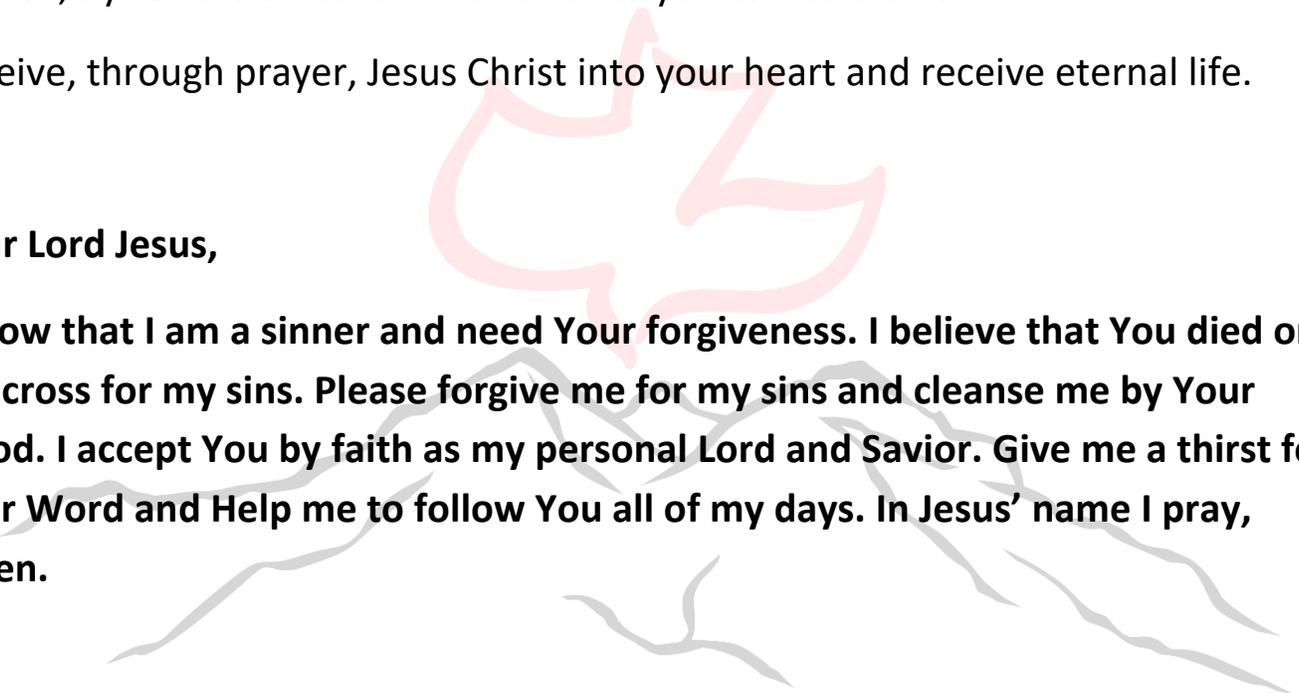
Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.



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