



Study 11: Jesus—The Transformed Man

Mark 9:1-32

Personal Preparation 1

In the last section of Mark’s gospel we read of the first time when Jesus openly revealed his identity—the Christ. But along with his identity, Jesus for the first time spoke of his purpose—he must be killed and after three days rise again. For the disciples this was a bewildering statement. It seems the disciples have a long way to go to really understand Jesus. But Jesus has not finished with them yet. They are about to ride a very steep learning curve!

Read Mark 9:1-13

1. After reading through this passage, right down some initial thoughts—what are some things that really captures your attention?

2. To help you work out what is going on here, it’s worth looking at a comparison between something that happens with Moses and what happens with Jesus in Mark 9. Fill in the below table, showing what is similar between the two events.

Moses – Exodus 24:1-18; 34:29	Jesus – Mark 9:2-13
The location: The number of people: The physical conditions: What is heard: The effects on the person:	

3. How does Peter respond to everything? What is Mark’s explanation for Peter’s behaviour? v5-6

4. If Moses was special in the history of Israel, what happens on the mountain to show that Jesus is even more special?

5. How should you respond to Jesus?

Personal Preparation 2

In the last Personal Preparation we focused on Moses. But he wasn't the only one on the mountain with Jesus.

Read Mark 9:1-13

1. Who are the two figures that appear with Jesus? v4

2. What do the disciples want to know about Elijah?

3. Can you remember a time when we've looked at Elijah before in our study of Mark's gospel?

John the Baptist is the new Elijah. He dressed and ate food like Elijah (1:6, See 2Kings 1:6-8). And in 2:1, Mark quotes Malachi 3:1 to say that John the Baptist is the messenger to prepare the way for the Lord. It's worth noting that in Malachi 4:4-6, there is a reference to Elijah as well as to Moses.

"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

4. John the Baptist is the new Elijah whose mission was to prepare the way for Jesus and to turn Israel's sinful heart around?

5. How successful do you think John the Baptist was in turning people's hearts around?

6. In verse 13, what does Jesus say about the new Elijah? How have we seen this happen with John the Baptist?

7. On the mountain—glory and power is revealed. But in their conversation on their way down from the mountain—there are very sombre words spoken. What will have to happen before we see Jesus' glory so clearly seen again?

thoughts. questions. insights

Jesus: The Transformed Man, Group Discussion Questions

Read Mark 9:1-13

1. What were the issues raised, questions posed or new insights you had as you read Mark 9:1-13 this week?

2. When Jesus says to his disciples in 9:1— 'I tell you the truth, some of you who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power'- what do you think Jesus is referring to?

Read Mark 9:14-32

3. When Jesus and Peter, James and John come down from the mountain—what situation does Jesus find?

4. The controversy centres upon a man who comes to Jesus and tells him about his son. How would you describe the boy's condition? v17-22

5. Jesus makes a statement that expresses his exasperation, v19. Who is Jesus referring to?

6. What response does Jesus want people to make towards him?

7. In private Jesus gets together with his disciples, what reason does he give for the disciples' failure to drive out the spirit? v28-29

8. If the disciples were not praying when trying to exorcise out this spirit, what does it say about their attitude?

9. Since Peter made the statement to Jesus, 'You are the Christ' (8:30) —there has been ongoing confusion on the part of the disciples. Between 8:31-9:32, list the number of times that the disciples just don't seem to get what Jesus is saying?

10. What is the thing that is a real hurdle for them to understand?

11. Why do you think this is so hard for them to understand?

12. What is their understanding of the Christ that make them confused?

13. Resurrection was not a foreign concept —See Mark 12:18-27. It was a standard Jewish belief. So why do you think they are stumped by Jesus speaking of 'rising from the dead', 9:10?

14. Jesus rebukes the father for his lack of faith (9:23) - what does it mean for us to be people of faith? How will it show?

Pray

- Pray that we would always be people who follow the words of the Heavenly Father and 'Listen to Jesus' .
- Give thanks that though Jesus was full of glory—he took the path of suffering and crucifixion before being raised again.

Remember

- Open Church on Sunday 25 May. A time when a clear message about Jesus will be given. It could be the perfect time to invite someone along.
- Growth Group is on next week, but not for the week following—we have a break. This is a chance for anyone to go to the 'Food for Thought' dinner on Thursday 29 May, mpc.