



A Glimpse of Glory

Key idea:

The Transfiguration is a revelation showing that the New Covenant has arrived, unveiling Jesus in His full glory so that the disciples can be sustained through the suffering that comes to Jesus and His followers.

Key text:

Mark 9:1-8

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.”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.³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.⁴ And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.⁵ 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.”⁶ (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)⁷ Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

Key points:

1. In the first half of Mark’s Gospel Jesus is identified as the Messianic King. However, the reader also learns that the way of Jesus the King involves suffering and death - for Jesus and His followers.
2. The transfiguration gives a glimpse of glory to the disciples (and all later believers) as a means of sustaining faith and hope in the face of the suffering and rejection that accompany true discipleship.
3. There are at least three main points to understanding the Transfiguration:
 - a. It is an event that brings revelation, so it follows a similar pattern to when Moses received God’s revelation at Mount Sinai/Horeb.
 - b. The presence of Elijah and Moses shows that the New Covenant and time of fulfillment has arrived with Jesus.

c. It is a revelation of Jesus' Glory as the Only Son of God.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. The first half of Mark's Gospel answers the question "Who is Jesus?" - He is the King! What question will the second half of the Gospel answer? (Hint: Consider the title of our series on Mark - Jesus: The King Who Came To Die").
3. Why does the Transfiguration happen shortly after Peter's confession of Jesus and His subsequent teaching that He would be crucified and that all of His followers should expect a path of suffering and bearing the cross? Why does God give this revelation at this point and not before?
4. What elements in Mark's record of the Transfiguration parallel God's revelation of the Old Covenant at Mount Sinai/Horeb in Exodus 24? What should I learn from this?
5. How does the book of Malachi, and especially Malachi 3:1-3 and 4:1-6 prepare us for the coming of Jesus in general, and the Transfiguration specifically?
6. Mark began his Gospel by alluding to Elijah, both in quoting Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40 and in his description of John the Baptist in terms reminiscent of Elijah. Why does he begin the second half of the Gospel with Elijah taking such a prominent place again? How does this help tie the two halves of the book together?
7. How do I think I would have responded if I had been one of the three disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration? Would I have been excited? Afraid? Confused?
8. When was the last time I sensed that I had a fresh glimpse of Jesus' Glory?
9. Bret said the main way we get a fresh glimpse of the Glory of Jesus today is by **faithfully** and **expectantly** spending time in the Word, prayer, and worship, both personally and in church gatherings. How am I doing at this? If I had to choose one as being an area I could grow in would it be spending time in the Word, in prayer, or in worship? How do I plan to grow in this area in the coming months?
10. Who can I reach out to this week to share the Gospel or strengthen their faith?