

Theme: 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.

I. Intro - Stockdale Paradox

- A. Admiral Stockdale - POW, Medal of Honor winner
- B. 7 years of unbearable suffering - how?
- C. Who didn't survive?: The optimists (home by Christmas)
- D. "This is a very important lesson. You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end—which you can never afford to lose—with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be." - Admiral Stockdale
- E. Jesus taught this long before Admiral Stockdale!
- F. 2nd half of the book - the King marches to His death

II. A Quick Review

- A. The identity of Jesus - the Messianic King!

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ." Mark 8:29

 - 1. This was the major question & answer of Mark 1-8
 - 2. Jesus has shown He is the King, the Son of God
 - a. Jesus has displayed authority over Satan & demons
 - b. Jesus has displayed authority over sickness & death
 - c. Jesus has displayed authority over nature
 - d. Jesus has displayed divine authority in His teaching
 - 3. Jesus is identified as the Messianic King
 - a. Mark announced this as the "title" of the Gospel

The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Mark 1:1

- b. The demons have recognized this (Mark 1:24)
 - c. There is a growing realization - and then Peter gives His great confession.
 - d. This is the first key question: Who is Jesus?
- B. The Way of Jesus - the Cross and Resurrection
- He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. Mark 8:31
- 1. The way of this King is VERY unexpected!
 - 2. Jesus the King will not be embraced but despised, rejected, and crucified!
 - 3. He has not come to crush His enemies but to die for them!
 - 4. This is so shocking that Peter actually rebukes Jesus! (Mark 8:32)
 - 5. This also means a cross and suffering for Jesus' followers!
- Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it." Mark 8:34-35
- a. To follow Jesus means to walk the way of rejection and suffering - this is to be expected!
 - b. The first readers of Mark were suffering persecution at the hands of Rome!
 - c. How can faith be sustained in the face of such suffering?

C. A glimpse of glory to sustain faith and hope

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. Mark 9:1-2

1. This immediately follows teaching on the cross!
2. Suffering and rejection lie ahead - but the destination of the glory of the Kingdom of God!
3. Jesus promises that some there will see the Kingdom come with power!
4. Ultimately this refers to His resurrection, ascension, and return (Mark 8:38), but a glimpse of this is given in the Transfiguration.
 - a. It is only six days later; of course some are still alive!
 - b. But it immediately follows and it is a preview of all that is to come - including Jesus' return.
5. After Hours - the link between the Transfiguration and the Coming of Christ.

III. The Transfiguration - A Glimpse of Glory

A. The Transfiguration is a revelation event

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... ⁴ And there appeared before them Moses... 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!" Mark 9:2, 4, 7

1. This event reminds one of God's revelation at Sinai

- a. A mountain (Mark 9:2; Ex. 24:15)
- b. Revelation after six days (Mark 9:2; Exodus 24:16)
- c. Moses is a key figure (Mark 9:4; Exodus 24:16)
- d. A cloud envelops (Mark 9:7; Exodus 24:16)
- e. A voice speaks from the cloud (Mark 9:7; Ex. 24:16)

2. The Transfiguration shows that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's covenant at Sinai - He is the True and Better Moses

B. The Transfiguration shows that the New Covenant has arrived

And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Mark 9:4

1. Moses and Elijah - the Law and the Prophets are testifying that they are fulfilled in Christ.
2. The whole of God's Word and covenant messengers - represented by Moses and Elijah - point to and are fulfilled in Jesus.
3. Moses and Elijah were associated with the coming of the New Covenant and the Kingdom

Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵ See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. ⁶ 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." Malachi 4:4-6

- a. This was the last old covenant revelation chronologically - followed by 400 years without prophetic revelation.
- b. It begins by looking back to God's revelation in giving the law to Moses at Mount Horeb (Sinai).

- c. Moses is also the prototype for all later prophets, who all pointed forward to the True Prophet - Jesus!
- d. Elijah the prophet had been sent to restore Israel in the days of Ahab and Jezebel, and Elijah would come at the dawn of the New Covenant to restore Israel to her Lord.
- e. The Gospel of Mark actually began with a reference to God sending His messenger (Elijah) to call Israel back to Himself

It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" — ³ "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" ⁴ And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Mark 1:2-4

1. The Gospel begins with the forerunner, the messenger appearing in the wilderness to call Israel back to the Lord.
2. Verse 2 is actually Malachi 3:1!
"See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty. Malachi 3:1
3. This messenger will call to repentance - and the Lord, the messenger of the Covenant, will come to His Temple to cleanse and establish God's covenant with His people.
4. The messenger calling to repentance is John the Baptist - more next week

- f. Here at the beginning of the second half of the book, Mark re-introduces this theme of Elijah giving testimony to Jesus, the Lord Who has come to His people.

4. Moses and Elijah appear as God's messengers to testify that Jesus, the messenger of the covenant has come to fulfill the Old Covenant so that the New Covenant might be established for God's people.

- C. The Transfiguration is a revelation of Jesus' Glory
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. Mark 9:5-8

1. Suddenly the veil hiding the Deity of Jesus is drawn back and His Glory radiates - and the disciples are blown away!
2. Peter is talking out of his head from fear!
3. He puts Jesus on par with Moses and Elijah - but God speaks to silence Him!
4. "The is my Son, whom I love - LISTEN to HIM"
 - a. Now is not the time to talk but to listen
 - b. Listen to Jesus alone - for He is the Burning Bush, the Word of God, and the God of the Prophets!
5. This is why Moses and Elijah go away and only Jesus remains - He has no peer!
6. Despite the coming rejection, suffering, and crucifixion of Jesus, He is the Lord of Glory!

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Am I beholding the glory of Christ?
 1. This life is full of trial, difficulty, and sin!
 2. If we are not careful this can cause us to miss the reality of Jesus' identity and what He is doing in the earth today!

3. Have you ever recognized Jesus' True Identity?

- a. We are comfortable with a human Jesus, One who is like Moses, or Buddha, or Mohammed - a human teacher.
- b. This is the message behind the Da Vinci Code and many popular ideas about Jesus
- c. But Jesus is far more than this - thank God!
- d. He is clear in His teaching, and the early Church was clear from the very earliest days that Jesus is God in the flesh.
- e. Have I seen, understood, and embraced the Glory of Jesus Christ?

4. For believers, am I regularly getting fresh glimpses of Jesus' glory?

- a. As believers, we face all of the struggles of this life - plus rejection for our identity and beliefs as Christians!
- b. Some respond to this by becoming hostile, like Peter taking up the sword to cut off the man's ear! But this is not the way of Christ!
- c. Others resist this temptation but become tired and disillusioned, and their walk with Christ fades.
- d. The antidote to both of these temptations is regularly having a fresh vision of Jesus in all His glory!
- e. For us this is not the Mount of Transfiguration, but rather beholding Jesus in the Word, prayer, and worship.
- f. Elijah himself became weary and wanted to die - and then he heard the still small voice and was sustained!
- g. Like the disciples, we do not know when we will get this glimpse of glory - it suddenly happens "after six days"!

- h. This is why we daily spend time in the Word, prayer, and worship - providing space to receive a glimpse of His glory!
- i. This is why we are called to gather with the Church each week - providing space to receive a glimpse of His glory.
- j. Am I **faithfully** attending to these means of grace?
- k. Am I **expectantly** attending to these means of grace?
- l. The King will give you glimpses of His glory - faithfully and expectantly come to Him!

B. The Table of Our Glorious King

1. One of the names of this Table is communion - it is not mere ritual; we commune with God
2. This is a chance to catch a glimpse of His glory!
When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.
³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. Luke 24:30-31
3. Come expectantly to commune and receive a fresh glimpse of His glory!

A Glimpse of Glory

Mark 9:1-8

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Communion

Ephesians 1:17-19

Teaching keywords: Christology; God's glory; Kingdom of God; New Covenant; prophets; revelation

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, ¹⁸ so that you may know him better having the eyes of your heart enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

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. Mark 9:1-8