

REVEALED

An Exposition of the Book of Mark



Supremely Glorious

Mark 9:2-13

Main Idea

The transfiguration confirms the identity of Jesus, he is supremely glorious, and assures the work of Jesus, he humbly suffered and victoriously rose again.

Overview

Jesus is supremely Glorious (vv. 2-8)

- Jesus is supremely glorious in that he radiates the glory of God
 - Jesus is transfigured; he is not becoming something but showing who he always has been
 - Recalls the event from Exodus 24 where Moses is on a mountain and comes down reflecting the glory of God
 - Jesus does more than reflect God's glory he radiates God's glory in himself
- Jesus is supremely glorious in that he is superior to even the greatest men of God
 - Moses & Elijah show up..why? they are the greatest men of God in the entire Old Testament
 - Both see the glory of God on a mountain (Ex. 24; 1 Kings 19)
 - Both are faithful servants who are rejected for their obedience to God
 - Both are precursors to the coming Messiah (Dt. 18:18; Mal. 4:5-6)
 - Jesus is the fulfillment of Dt. 18:18 (cf. 9:7)
 - Moses represents the Law; Elijah represents the prophets
 - Jesus is the one to whom the Law & Prophets point (cf. Jhn 1:45; 5:39)
- Mark is giving us numerous pointers to the supreme glory of Jesus
 - 1: Only Jesus is transfigured
 - 2: Only the clothes of Jesus radiate
 - 3: Only Jesus is the Son of God
 - 4: We are told to listen to Jesus, not Moses or Elijah
 - 5: Only Jesus is left; Moses and Elijah fade into the shadows of Jesus' glory
- We are to "Listen to Him:"
 - "If anyone would come after me he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (8:34)
 - "Repent and believe in the gospel...and follow me" (1:15,17)
- Peter is frightened by the utter holiness of Jesus

The Work of Jesus is Assured – He Humbly Suffered and Victoriously Rose Again (vv. 9-13)

- On the way back down the mountain, Jesus tells Peter, James, & John not to say anything *until* after his resurrection
 - Though Jesus is the expected Messiah he will work in the most unexpected way

- The disciples still can't comprehend the Messiah dying, thus they are questioning the resurrection of "this" Messiah (v. 10)
- The disciples ask Jesus about Elijah because they know he must return before the Messiah (cf. Mal. 3:1, 4:5)
 - Chronologically they are right, Elijah does come first
 - Theologically they are wrong, Elijah has come and he suffered; so too will the Messiah
 - John the Baptist fulfilled the prophecy of Elijah (cf. Mt. 17:11-13; Mark 1:1-4)
 - They did to John the Baptist whatever they pleased (cf. Mk 5)
- The way to the crown is by way of the cross *as it is written* (cf. Is. 53)
 - Jesus the Son of God laid aside the crown of glory to take up the cross of suffering. The private glory of Jesus on the mountain has turned to public humiliation on a cross. Instead of standing between Moses and Elijah with a face radiating the glory of God, he hangs between two thieves with a face bloodied from the wrath of God.

Questions

1. In verse 2-3 we see Jesus transfigured and his clothes become radiant. This is similar to what happened to Moses in Exodus (cf. 24:15-18; 29). What's the difference and why is this significant?
2. We often view Jesus as Savior (which is correct), but we often don't talk about his holiness. Why do you think this is? What are the implications of minimizing the supreme glory and holiness of Jesus?
3. Out of all the people in the Bible why is it that Moses & Elijah show up? How does this point to the supreme glory of Jesus?
4. What is the significance of verse 7? What does it mean to "listen to him"?
5. Read verse 6. How does this reaction compare to ours when we encounter Jesus? How has the church at large, and our own lives in particular, minimized the holiness of Jesus? What are some things we can do to cultivate a better understanding of Jesus' holiness?
6. Why does Jesus tell Peter, James & John to keep quiet? What's different about this prohibition that what we've seen in the past (cf. 8:30)?
7. Both right before and right after the account of the Transfiguration, Jesus teaches on his death and resurrection. Why? (i.e. the cross must come before the crown)
8. How can the cross and resurrection move from distant facts to personal, life-transforming truths? (i.e. , "how in a world filled with so much pain and suffering can we worship a God who is immune to it?" & the apologetic value of the resurrection)