



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK MARCH 5, 2024

MARK 9

And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

The Transfiguration

Some keys:

6 days = parallel to Moses' ascension of Mt. Sinai with six days of God's cloud covering it (Ex 24:16)

Peter, James, John = Jesus' inner circle (also in 5:37, 13:3, 14:33)

A high mountain = where divinity and humanity encounter each other, where God reveals himself to humanity

He was transfigured = *metamorph*- in biblical Greek – an outward transformation of his appearance

Dazzling white = the glory of God

Moses and Elijah = the words and works of these two prophets are fulfilled in Jesus

Shelters = tabernacle- a dwelling for divinity

Cloud = God's presence

Voice saying "This is my Son whom I love. Listen to him!" = Jesus heard this during his baptism, now the three disciples hear it as a divine revelation

Secrecy until he has risen from the dead = The first time this command has been given a time

The cross and resurrection must be understood from a certain vantage point – then all of Jesus' ministry can truly be understood

LESSONS IN DISCIPLESHIP = FOLLOWING JESUS GETS HARDER

From now on, the road is leading to Jerusalem. Following Jesus will be getting harder.

Faith

Disciples = unbelieving/faithless

Father = believing, yet needs more faith

Jesus = the reality of what is ahead of him, and the state of the people around him is all setting in

Jesus' 2nd prediction of his death = they did not understand

The argument over who is "greatest" among them = *shows* they do not understand

Just like the father, they have some belief, but they still need more

The Costs of Discipleship

Seeing the world from the vantage point of the kingdom of God

The "first" vs. the "last"

The children

The ones who "for," not "against"

Cutting off temptations

Discipleship is *not* easy. It is about aligning with a new reality that Jesus has brought into our reality – that of the Kingdom of God. There is a personal cost to following Jesus. And, there is no cruising along. Being a disciples requires deliberate actions, attitudes, battles against sin.

The Transformation of the Heart

Teaching on divorce and children

Teaching on the problem with wealth

Discipleship in light of the Cross

Jesus and disciples (“What do you want me to do for you?”)

The cup = God’s wrath against sin

The baptism = looking back to Jesus’ baptism which established his identity and his mission – a new covenant

Glory = servanthood

Jesus and Bartimaeus (“What do you want me to do for you?”)