

Mark 9:2-9 (Transfiguration 2012)

Witness the Whiteness

Pastor Jack Gilbert

Introduction: In Mark's recording of the transfiguration of our Lord, we find Jesus' clothes are made "...intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them." (Mark 9:3). We know there are many limitations to what we can understand and do in this world, and the transfiguration account points us to this truth.

I. The Transfiguration of Jesus

- a. The word "transfiguration" is the word we use for metamorphosis, or _____.
- b. In this unveiling of God's glory, we see a glimpse at the two natures of Christ.

The Human Nature: Christ is fully _____.

The Divine Nature: Christ is fully _____.

- c. If Jesus is not both human and divine, His sacrifice accomplishes nothing.

II. The Transfiguration of Peter

- a. Peter witnesses the whiteness of Jesus' transfiguration along with James and John and interrupts the glory. "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah" (Mark 9:5).
- b. Peter insists on saying or doing something as he watches this amazing event.
- c. The response he hears comes from _____ from within a cloud. "This is my beloved Son; listen to Him" (Mark 9:7).
- d. Peter is changed by the Father's words, as he is taught simply to "listen" to Jesus.

III. The Transfiguration of God's People

- a. Our fallen minds can't comprehend the full power of God, and we struggle to acknowledge that He is truly in control.

- b. Through the means of grace, we witness the whiteness of God's glory and forgiveness and are changed from His enemies to His beloved children.
- c. Repent from your Peter-like insistence to speak or do something when God is at work!

Conclusion: The prophet Isaiah proclaims, "...though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." (Isaiah 1:18) Only God can do this. And He has done it for you.

Digging Deeper
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OPEN: What events have you witnessed in your life that you will likely never forget?

DIG:

1. Review Mark 9:2-9. In this passage, Mark shows us what happened on the mountain as Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John.
 - A. How do you think you might have responded if you saw this?
 - B. What significance is there to Moses and Elijah appearing and speaking with Jesus?
 - C. What did this event show Peter, James, and John about Jesus?
 - D. Why did Jesus charge them not to tell anyone what they had seen?

2. The Greek word for “transfiguration” is similar to our English word for “change”.
 - A. In what way was Jesus “changed” at this event?
 - B. In what ways were Peter, James, and John “changed” by this event?
 - C. In what ways does God “change” us as we live in this life?
 - D. In what ways does this account “change” your view of Jesus?

3. Examine Peter’s reaction and the response he receives. (Mark 9:5-7)
 - A. How does Peter’s reaction differ from what James and John were doing?
 - B. What do you think about the fact that Peter recognizes and calls Moses and Elijah by name as they appear and speak with Jesus?
 - C. Peter’s idea of building three tents is shot down almost immediately by the voice of God the Father from within a cloud that “overshadowed” them while this was all taking place. What stands out about the Father’s words?

- D. Clearly we can see that Peter's suggestion was not a good one. What was wrong with it and how do we see ourselves doing similar things?

REFLECT:

1. What passages from Scripture come to mind when looking at Peter's reaction and God the Father's response?
2. How does the picture of Jesus as our suffering Savior shape your view of what our lives as His followers here on earth are going to look like?
3. Where do you go in order to be assured of God's glorious and powerful presence in this life?

Questions or comments?

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