

EQUIPPING DISCIPLES FOR KINGDOM GROWTH  
*Mark Series: Let the Gospel Tell the Gospel*

**ONE WORD—NOT TEN—FROM THE MOUNTAIN: LISTEN TO JESUS!**

Covenant Presbyterian Church

**MARK 9:1-13**

20 January A.D. 2013

Lucius Septimus Severus (146-211), Emperor of Rome, died with these words: *I have been everything and everything is nothing. A little urn will contain all that remains of one for whom the whole world was too little.*

William Faulker, in *Requiem for a Nun*, has Nancy Mannigoe say in her simple way: *Jesus dont tell you not to sin, He just asks you not to. And he dont tell you to suffer. But He gives you the chance. He gives you the best He can think of, that you are capable of doing. And He will save you.*

***Since Jesus' death & resurrection life-with-a-future is all about listening to, following & trusting him.***

**Mark 9:1      Live now in the light of kingdom power already delivered with more yet to come!**

<sup>1</sup> And Jesus was saying to them, “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.”

This verse ties to the themes of angels and glory that precede it and introduces the transfiguration that follows. It is not likely (as many have thought) that the Second Coming is in view. Rather the context points to the death and resurrection of Jesus—and the disciples beyond that will see his ascension and Pentecost.

This teaching is given to encourage Peter, James & John as they are just seeing that Jesus is the Christ and that he **must** die.

**Mark 9:2-8      God now gives only one commandment—not ten: *Listen to my beloved Son!***

*The Son, the King, is here: he is and speaks the Word of God.*

<sup>2</sup> Six days later, Jesus \*took with Him Peter and James and John, and \*brought them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; <sup>3</sup> and His garments became radiant and exceedingly white, as no launderer on earth can whiten them. <sup>4</sup> Elijah appeared to them along with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Peter \*said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tabernacles, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup> For he did not know what to answer; for they became terrified. <sup>7</sup> Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!” <sup>8</sup> All at once they looked around and saw no one with them anymore, except Jesus alone.

Jesus is the Word and the giver of the Word.

Jesus fulfills all the law and the prophets.

Peter is overwhelmed (good) but thinks he has to say and do something (bad); he’s still trying to be in control. How about you?

This revelation on the mountain is for their/your encouragement: Jesus did not hang onto his life (position, family status, wealth) but gave it up to meet our greatest need.

Moses and Elijah came to point forward: their work is fulfilled in Jesus, the greater than Moses and ultimate prophet.

Note the parallels in Moses' and Elijah's experiences on the mountain of God: Exodus 24, Exodus 33, 1 Kings 19.

Jesus is transfigured before (for) them.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV) <sup>18</sup> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

The Greek word for the cloud is used rarely but in the LXX in Exodus 40:35 it is used to describe the cloud that filled the tabernacle with the glory of God and in 1Ki 8:10-11 as the cloud fills Solomon's temple AND where the angel tells Mary she will be overshadowed by the power of God in Luke 1:35.

Hebrews 1:3 (ESV) <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

**Earnest Best, *Following Jesus*:** "It is not the denial of something to the self but the denial of the self itself. It is the opposite of self-affirmation, of putting value on one's being, one's life, one's position before man or God, of claiming rights and privileges peculiar to one's special position in life or even of those normally believed to belong to the human being as such."

What selves do we love to put on and love?

**position** (job, skill, accomplishments, family position)

**person** (family--history, homeschool, graduate of special school)

**possessions** (wealth, art, notoriety, gifts, abilities)

**Mark 9:9-13      God's kingdom power is displayed as his atoning one is rejected by men but approved by God and raised from the dead.**

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down from the mountain, He gave them orders not to relate to anyone what they had seen, until the Son of Man rose from the dead. <sup>10</sup> They seized upon that statement, discussing with one another what rising from the dead meant. <sup>11</sup> They asked Him, saying, "*Why is it* that the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" <sup>12</sup> And He said to them, "Elijah does first come and restore all things. And *yet* how is it written of the Son of Man that He will suffer many things and be treated with contempt? <sup>13</sup> "But I say to you that Elijah has indeed come, and they did to him whatever they wished, just as it is written of him."

**Mark <sup>29</sup>** And Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question, and you answer Me, and *then* I will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>30</sup> "Was the baptism of John from heaven, or from men? Answer Me." <sup>31</sup> They *began* reasoning among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say, 'Then why did you not believe him?' Mar 11:29-31

**Malachi <sup>5</sup>** "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> "He will restore the hearts of the fathers to *their* children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse." Mal 4:5-6

**Mark <sup>12</sup>** "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. Mar 13:12

**Romans <sup>1:1</sup>** Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called *as* an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,...

**Bonhoeffer wrote in *The Cost of Discipleship*:** "To deny oneself is to be aware only of Christ and no more of self, to see only him who goes before and no more the road which is too hard for us. Once more, all that self-denial can say is, 'He leads the way, keep close to him.'"