





## Seeing Is (Not Always) Believing

### The Transfiguration: Mark 9:1-13 NIV

<sup>1</sup> 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.”

<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

<sup>5</sup> 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.” <sup>6</sup> (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

<sup>7</sup> Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”

<sup>8</sup> Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.<sup>10</sup> They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what “rising from the dead” meant.

<sup>11</sup> And they asked him, “Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?”

<sup>12</sup> Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected?<sup>13</sup> But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him.”

### OUR MISSION:

To find rest for our souls in surrender to the gentle and humble heart of Jesus

### 1. What is happening here?

*9:1 connects back to 8:34-38:*

Verse 1 is actually the final statement of Jesus in the conversation from Mark 8:34-38, but it is setting up the visual revelation of God's kingdom here in 9:2-8.

*Moses and Elijah on the mountaintop:*

Both Moses and Elijah had supernatural mountaintop experiences of God (Exodus 19 and 1 Kings 19). Moses and Elijah represent the two most prominent figures in Israel's history with God through the Law and the Prophets, and they serve as witnesses here to confirm God's ultimate plan of salvation through Jesus. Their importance decreases before the supreme importance of Jesus.

*The Appearance of God:*

God would often manifest His presence through a cloud (Ex. 13:21, 19:9, 34:5, Num. 11:25, Deut. 31:15, Isaiah 19:1, Ezek. 10:3-4) and as bright light (Exodus 13:21, Ezekiel 1:26-28, Psalm 104:1-2, Hab. 3:3-4, Acts 9:3, 1 John 1:5).

*Confirming the Identity of Jesus:*

God's affirmation of Jesus as His Son identifies Jesus as the supreme King/Son of God in Psalm 2 and 2 Samuel 7:12-16. Plus, the glorious transformation of Jesus' appearance, coupled with His self-identification as “the Son of Man,” points to Jesus' identity as the everlasting King “son of man” figure in Daniel 7:13-14. In this Transfiguration event, God has pulled back the curtains of Heaven to confirm the divine identity of Jesus as Son of God, Son of Man, and indeed God Himself became human.

### 2. The disciples struggle to believe what Jesus has taught them about suffering and death as His path (and theirs) to salvation:

- Mark 8:31-38:
- Peter, James, and John still don't get it, even after seeing the Transfiguration:

### 3. WE, too, struggle to believe:

- What has God revealed to you that confirms Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life?
- Do you embrace all that Jesus has taught as the Way, the Truth, and the Life to be lived each and every day? Which teachings may be lacking in your life?
- God's message to the three disciples is also His message to us:  
*“This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” — Mark 9:7b*

### OUR VISION:

To be a united, growing family that embodies the presence of Jesus to everyone we encounter

## GLOBAL FOCUS

### Update On Obria Medical Clinics (Part 2)

Here are some of the exciting things that started at Obria last year:

The Lord has answered our prayers and we have relocated our Pasadena clinic to the heart of San Gabriel Valley, in Alhambra (902 E Main Street, Alhambra, CA 91801). This is a larger facility, which increases our monthly expenses, but also enables us to service more patients.

As we had mentioned in 2024, we have been brainstorming ideas to offer additional services that will make Obria LA a preferred choice for women's reproductive healthcare, without changing our mission/vision. Marketing and advertising are essential, though costly. We have added holistic, evidence-based treatments called Harmony Health and Vitality to help bring in additional revenue for the clinic, while marketing to new patients to familiarize them with our reproductive healthcare services. We have also launched our innovative post-partum program called, Village Acts, which offers emotional, educational and practical home support for our new mothers by providing them with a trained doula.