

Mark Chapter 9

- Jesus and His disciples are still in the general vicinity of Caesarea Philippi, not far from Mount Hermon when Jesus makes this statement:

V: 1 There are some standing here that will not see death until the Kingdom of God is come with power.

Matthew 4:17 “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

- Wherever Jesus is; that is the heaven, the Kingdom of God.

When we see the fruition of our prayers:

Matthew 6:10 “Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done in Earth as it is in Heaven...”

Peter asked Jesus about John:

John 21:22 “If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou Me.”

- We see the fulfillment of this prophecy in the book of Revelation; the Apostle John sees the Kingdom of God come in power and glory.

V: 2 After 6 days, so on the 7th day. (No point of reference)

- Peter, James, John – an inner circle of sorts, singled out from the rest of the group on 3 occasions.

1. Raising of Jairus' daughter.
2. Transfiguration.
3. Gethsemane

- High mountain: probably Mr. Hermon.

1. Proximity to Caesarea Philippi / Banias.
2. Highest mountain in the area.
3. Mt. Tabor (traditional site) is too far away, past the sea of Galilee @ Nazareth.

- Transfigured: (G-3339) “metamorphoo”, metamorphosis, transformed. Speaking of the miracle of transformation from an earthly form into a supernatural form.

V: 3 His garments shined exceeding white, like snow – supernaturally, miraculously from within.

- Radiating light from within as opposed to reflecting it.

- Jesus radiated, Moses reflected.

V: 4 Elijah: representing the prophets. Moses: representing the Law.

- Jesus in communion or fellowship with the Law and the prophets:

Matthew 5:17 “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.”

- The Gospel of Luke gives us a couple more details:

Luke 9:30-31 ³⁰And behold, there talked with Him two men, which were Moses and Elias: ³¹Who appeared in glory, and spake of His decease which **He** should accomplish at Jerusalem.”

V: 5-6 Matthew records that Peter asked if it would be ok, to make the tabernacles; yet the mistake is the same:

1. Speaking at all when he should just be watching and listening.
2. Placing Jesus and Moses & Elijah on the same level.

Isaiah 46:5 “To whom will ye liken Me, and make me equal, and compare Me, that we may be like?”

- Because he was afraid and didn't know what to say:

Proverbs 10:19 “In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.”

V: 7 God interrupts Peter – “Shekinah Glory”

- Again God the Father is confirming His only Son's authority, affirming His ministry.
- Similar affirmations:

Matthew 3:16-17 ¹⁶And Jesus when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him: ¹⁷and lo a voice from heaven, saying, this is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

John 12:28 “Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.”

- God spoke to man through Moses & the Law, then through the prophets encouraging men to obey the law.

- Now God is speaking directly through His Son and saying, “listen to Him!”

Hebrews 1:1-3 “¹God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, ²hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; ³who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”

V: 8 This suddenly became a personal experience; seeing no other man save Jesus only.

- This was a formative experience for Peter, he referred to this incident later in his 2nd letter:

2 Peter 1:16-18 “¹⁶For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷For He received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to Him from the excellent glory, this is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. ¹⁸And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with Him in the holy mount.”

Matthew 17:7 “And Jesus came and touched them, and said, arise, and be not afraid.”

- Mountain top experiences are special:
 1. On Mount Sinai the Law was given.
 2. At the sermon on the mount, the Law was explained.
 3. Here on the “holy mount”, presumably Mt. Hermon, the Law was glorified.
 4. Later on the mount, called Calvary – the Law would be fulfilled.

V: 9-10 Jesus charged / commanded them not to tell anyone until He was risen from the dead – which they did.

- But they didn’t understand the meaning of His death and resurrection.
- Jesus first started talking about this after Peter’s confession that Jesus is Lord; they couldn’t understand how Jesus who had demonstrated power over life and death, the elements and nature could be killed.

Later, Jesus would instruct His disciples:

John 10:17-18 “¹⁷Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again. ¹⁸No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.”

V: 11-13 The disciples and all the Jews knew about the prophecy in **Malachi 4:5** that Elija would precede the Messiah.

- Now they've seen the Messiah in His glory, they ask Where's Elija?
- Luke's Gospel explains **Isaiah 40:3** and **Malachi 3:1**, that John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elija.

Isaiah 40:3 "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I will send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts."

- An angel of the Lord speaking with Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist described John's ministry:

Luke 1:17 "And he shall go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn their hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

- Eventually "they" – men, did what they wanted; John was imprisoned and beheaded by Herod – not recognizing who he really was.
- Today the Jews are waiting for the 1st coming of the Messiah, and His "forerunner" Elija.
- Passover tradition of extra place setting and checking the door.

V: 14-16 Returning to His disciples, coming down from the mountain:

- While the sun shines the brightest on the mountain tops, the fruit grows in the valleys.
- The disciples are surrounded by a multitude and the scribes are questioning them and Jesus intervenes.
- As Jesus enters into the situation the multitude turn from the disciples to Jesus, greeting Him – probably much to the relief of the disciples.

V: 17-18 Jesus is now approached by a man whose son is demon possessed.

Matthew 17:15 "Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is a lunatic, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water."

- **Lunatic:** “smitten by the moon” (Epileptic)
- Eastern culture: If you slept outside and the moon happened to shine on your face, it would drive you crazy.
- Sore vexed / troubled, cast into the fire, cast into water.

V: 18 “... **he teareth** (convulsed) **at him, and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away...**”

- This father is describing a terrible, heart wrenching situation.
- The attempts by the demon to destroy the boy and the torment all fall in line with Satan’s character as expressed by his titles.

Revelation 9:11 “Abaddon” – Hebrew = destruction.
“Apollyon” – Greek = destroyer.

- The disciples weren’t able to drive this demon out of the boy.

V: 19 Faith, or faithlessness is the issue:

Matthew 13:58 “And He did not many mighty works there because of their **un-belief.**”

1 Corinthians 1:9 “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”

- Our faith waivers, His faith is constant and strong!
- What is the remedy? “... **bring him unto Me.**” Take them to Jesus!

V: 20 Coming into the presence of Jesus the evil spirit convulsed within the boy, wallowing, foaming.

- We see the same thing today: Evil hates the light.

V: 21-22 Jesus knows the answers, He’s just clarifying for everyone present.

- Casting him into the fire or into the waters – to destroy him.

In rebuking the Pharisees, Jesus gives us insights about the enemy:

John 8:44a “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning,..”

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

- He doesn't just ask for compassion upon his son – he asks for compassion for “us” – he is suffering right along with his son.

V: 23-24 The issue is still one of faith.

- This issue of faith was dealt with first.
- Jesus didn't heal first, then talk about faith.

This man faced the truth:

Psalm 51:6 “Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.”

This man was broken:

Psalm 51:17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

V: 25-26 Jesus saw the people coming – running, not wanting to make a spectacle.

- Jesus rebukes the evil spirit, commanded the spirit to come out of him, never to return.
- It got worse before it got better!
- The introduction of God's word initially brought pain, but eventually it brought deliverance.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

John 8:31-32 “If ye continue in My word, ye are My disciples indeed, and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

V: 27 Ultimately it was the touch of our Lord Jesus; Jesus is the one who lifted him up and restored him.

V: 28-29 Prayer & fasting: **prayer attaches** us to God, **fasting detaches** us from the flesh.

Jesus said:

Matthew 6:17 “Moreover, when ye fast...”

Mark 8:34 “Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

2 Corinthians 10:4 “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.”

H.A. Ironside “*Prayer is the expression of dependence upon God, which alone gives victory.*”

- Can't fast on the spot, instantly, must be done ahead of time, must be ready at all times, lifestyle.

2 Timothy 4:2 “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

2 Peter 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

V: 30 Jesus, leaving the area of Mt. Hermon and Caesarea Philippi seeking to make His way through the Galilee area discreetly.

- In a sense Jesus' public ministry is over, in the remaining time He seems to focus on instructing the disciples, preparing them for His crucifixion and eventual ascension to heaven.
- After Jesus gets to Capernaum He will start to make His way to Jerusalem on His final journey to the cross – He is at this point headed to the cross.

Isaiah 50:7 “For the Lord God will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.”

V: 31-32 Jesus again teaches His disciples about the cross, His death and resurrection – but they didn't understand it.

- Jesus speaks of His death at the hands of sinful men, but He also re-assures His disciples of His resurrection which both go hand in hand.

Matthew 17:22-23 “²²And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, the Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: ²³And they shall kill Him, and the third day He shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.”

- Based on their reaction they seemingly heard the first part but didn't seem to hear the last part – that He would rise again.

Hebrews 12:2 “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

- They didn't understand it, and they were afraid to ask Jesus about it.
- I can kind of see why the disciples didn't understand how or why Jesus would die and His resurrection, I don't understand their caution regarding not wanting to ask Jesus about it.
- Perhaps their previous failures kept them from asking, or maybe it just wasn't their time to understand until after the resurrection.

V: 33-34 Jesus challenges the disciples on their discussion, argument – “disputed” regarding who would be the greatest.

- This points once again to the “omniscience” of Jesus – I'm assuming that they wouldn't have had this discussion in front of Jesus.

V: 35 “*He sat down*” – this is the typical, cultural position of a teacher.

- The Rabbi sits down and generally the students stand up – and the instruction begins.
- The point of instruction: “If any man desires to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.”

Matthew 19:30 “But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.”

Mark 8:35 “For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.”

V: 36 Jesus took a child into His arms as an illustration for the disciples – that means there were children present in this time of instruction.

Mark 10:14 “... suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.”

V: 37 Jesus now uses a child as an example of servanthood.

- An unspoiled child is submitted and humble, they know they're a child – there is no pretense, there is no expectation of being more than a child, they're honest, and they're ok acting like a child.

- True humility means coming to grips with who we are. Knowing ourselves, accepting who we are and being just that, ourselves, our best self, and being willing to give of ourselves to others.
- When we minister to children there is no real expectation of a return, kids don't pay you back, they're geared much towards absorbing your love and service – in other words it is a selfless ministry, self-less kind of love – agape love, and when we do it to them we are doing it to Jesus.

Luke 14:12-14 “¹²... when thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbors; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. ¹³But when thou makest a fest, call the poor, the maimed, and lame, the blind: ¹⁴And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.”

V: 38 This unknown man had the faith in Jesus and was doing that which the disciples had most recently been unable to do – driving out demons.

- Sectarianism: narrow-minded devotion to a particular sect, esp. in religion, in which case it is called denominationalism:
- What is this man doing?
 1. Casting out demons. = Good.
 2. In the name of Jesus. = Good!
 3. He wasn't one of us... so we forbid him. (from doing good in the name of Jesus...)
- There is a danger here that the disciples would be like the Pharisees, not examining what is actually happening here and how it is happening – blinded by sectarianism.
- This man discovered something: There is power in the name of Jesus!

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Philippians 2:9-11 “⁹Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and the things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

V: 39 Jesus corrected this – “*forbid him not...*”

- No man can do a miracle in Jesus' name without Jesus being a part of it.

- No man doing such things would speak evil of Jesus.

V: 40 There is no neutral position, we are on one side or the other.

Matthew 12:30 “He that is not with Me is against Me; and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth abroad. (Works against Me.)

V: 41 If it is being done for the Love of Jesus – it counts.

1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

V: 42 Jesus still has that little boy on His lap.

- If anyone should offend – cause them to stumble, cause them to stop serving the Lord. (Casting out demons in Jesus name.)
- It would be better for them to have a millstone (500lbs) hung around their neck and be cast into the sea.

1 Corinthians 8:9 “But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak.”

1 Corinthians 8:13 “Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.”

- There is a difference between accidentally, un-intentionally, being inconsiderate of others and purposefully with evil intent causing others to fall away from the faith.
- The proponents of Darwinian evolution, false teachers of the Bible, the authors and endorsers of SB-48 requiring homosexual indoctrination of our children from kindergarten on up are all good examples of this.
- So called “scholars” – higher critics of the Bible that cast doubt upon the word of God all fit into this category.

Galatians 1:8 “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”

2 Timothy 3:5 “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

V: 43-48 If your hand, your foot, or your eyes causes you to sin – cut it off! Jesus is speaking figuratively, not literally.

Jesus already made it clear that sin starts out in our heart:

Mark 7:20-23 “²⁰And he said, that which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. ²¹For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, ²²thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: ²³All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”

Hebrews 12:1 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”

1. The things we put our hands to.
 2. The places we go, the way we walk.
 3. The things we see, or the way we see things.
- Deal with it radically, un-mercifully.

Hebrews 12:1 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doeth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”

Give no quarter to sin:

Romans 13:14 “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.”

- Notice that there are some parts missing?

James 3:6-9 “⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. ⁷For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: ⁸But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.”

Ephesians 4:29 “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”

- What is the consequence? Hell!
- Here in these scriptures Jesus gives us a partial description of hell.

1. The fire is never quenched.

Isaiah 33:14 “The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings.”

2. The worm / maggot never dies – always feeding. (**Isaiah 66:24**)

Matthew 22:13 “Then said the king to the servants, bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

3. Outer darkness – there is no light.

4. Eternal torment.

- What hell really is: eternal separation from God.
- Hell is the result of rejecting God and it is the result of God respecting the choice of sinful man.
- God does not force anyone to go to heaven.

John 3:17 “For God sent not His son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.”

John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

V: 49 Salt is a preservative agent, salt is a cleansing agent, salt adds flavor.

- Everyone is “seasoned” or salted with fire, tried, tested in some way.

John 16:33 “These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

James 1:3-4 “³Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

Our lives are intended to be a living sacrifice:

Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service.”

Leviticus 2:13 “And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt; neither shalt thou suffer the salt of the covenant of thy God to be lacking from thy meat offering: with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt.”

V: 50 Salt is good: but if it looses it's saltiness then it's not good.

- Salt promotes thirst, it preserves, it cleanses, and it heals.
- Salt adds flavor – so if we become bland, then no bueno.
- Salt is equated to fire – so we need to be a little fiery at times.

Matthew 5:13 “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”

- Have salt in yourselves: be salty – but at the same time have peace one with another. Balance, not arguing over trivial or inconsequential things.
- This may be a reference back to their argument about who would be the greatest.

Romans 12:18 “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”