

Christ Community Covenant Church
Jesus' Power Revealed: "Wow! Was it Revealed!"
Mark 8:27 – 9:13
Pastor Curt Vogt – February 8, 2015

Intro: Continuing our series on the book of Mark – lots going on
Start with quite an extraordinary (amazing, incredible) event – and then work backwards a bit

“TRANSFIGURATION” – What comes to mind? What do you think of? Have you heard it before?
Richard Strauss wrote “Death and Transfiguration”; Modern/pop culture & media – Harry Potter
From *metamorphoun* – transform, change – on 4 times in the NT

PASSAGE: Mark 9:2 – 10

Unpacking the event:

Jesus takes Peter, James, John – inner circle, close friends, future leaders
Up a mountain – mountains have regular significance for divine encounters;
traditional = Mt. Tabor, Mt. Hermon more likely (doesn't matter...ð)
Some incredible, significant change occurs – “transfiguration”
Mark tries to describe – white, dazzling, bleach
Matthew – “face shone like the sun;” “white as light”
Luke – “face changed;” “clothes became a bright as a flash of lightning”
Moses & Elijah appear – two pillars of Jewish faith (both had God experiences on a mountain)
Esp. Moses in Exodus 33
***Important contrast** – Moses reflected God's glory,
divine glory came from within Jesus, emanated from Him
Peter's comments – maybe to prolong the encounter, keep them here; “tabernacles” reference to Feast
of Tabernacles; bask in the God moment, worship, honor
Let's give Pete a break...so frightened
Cloud appears – cloud regularly symbolizes God's presence, Ex. 33 & other OT examples
Voice: “This is my Son, whom I love” – clearly God speaking; “Listen to Him!” – obey, heed
Encounter ends – Moses & Elijah gone, cloud gone, 3 plus Jesus head down

So what's up with this event?

I'd like to suggest that the transfiguration is an affirmation sign from God

-The Pharisees & teachers of the Law asked for a sign in chapter 8 but because they lacked faith, were trying to test Jesus and wouldn't believe Him anyway; they were not given any sign.
-In contrast God gives this encounter to a chosen few who didn't ask, were seeking God and showing indications of faith to affirm several things about Jesus.
(Also: “Stamp of Approval” or “Confirmation from God” or “Support of who Jesus is” from God)

The Transfiguration is a Sign of Affirmation from God ... for several things specifically:

- 1) Affirming Jesus as fulfillment of the OT
Moses = Law & Elijah = Prophets; Jesus supersedes; they are subordinate to Him

Passage: Mark 8:27 – 30

Christ Greek/ **Messiah** Hebrew/ “Anointed One” – Unique God-Man – “God's Guy” for the task

- 2) Affirming Jesus as Christ
“This is my Son, whom I love.”

Passage: 8:31 – 33

This section of Mark = hinge point: begins talking about His true work of suffering and death
To accomplish the task God has given Him, the true work of the Christ, He will suffer, die, rise
This kind of view of Messiah was unheard of (and unpopular) so Peter confronts and speaks up
Jesus must counter Peter – “Get behind me Satan!”

- 3) Affirming that Jesus must suffer and die
“Listen to him!” – what He's saying is right, heed Him
Support passage from Suffering Servant section of Isaiah: 53:4 – 9 (52:13 – 53:12)

Passage: 8:34 – 38

Put selfishness behind you; take up cross (suffer, die)

To follow Jesus be all about Him, lose your life to save it

- 4) Affirming that Jesus followers must suffer as He did
“Listen to him!” – heed His instruction, direction

So what? What do we take from this event?

- Do you understand that Jesus is the fulfillment of the OT? (may or may not be important to you)
- Do you know who Jesus really is? Christ/Messiah/Anointed One; Unique God-Man; “God’s Guy”

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.” ~ C. S Lewis

- Do you grasp the work Christ did for us? Suffering, dying, being resurrected to reconcile us to God
- Do you truly get what it means to follow Jesus? A total commitment, even to the point of suffering & dying (probably the biggest take away)

What an event!