BRIARCLIFF CHURCH Small Group Study Guide: Mark Week of February 17 (Week 22) Mark 9:2-50



Sermon Overview

In chapter 8, we saw that the very minute Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah (8:29), Jesus immediately began to teach, "Yes, but I am the Messiah who has come to be murdered." Peter rebukes him (8:31-32), so it is clear that only relentless teaching on Jesus' part is going to make any "dent" in the prejudices of the disciples. Now we are in the second half of Mark, and the contrast with the first half is already evident. Jesus now constantly speaks of his death and suffering, and he does it in ways that the disciples find extremely hard to swallow. This passage begins to answer the questions about the nature of Christ's life and the reasons that the Messiah has to die.

Jesus was transfigured "before them" (verse 2) meaning that the "Transfiguration" was for his disciples' benefit, designed to teach them about his person and work. Therefore, we have to ask "what does the *transfiguration* teach us?"

Listen to Recent Sermons

Visit Mark Resource Page

Starting with God

1. Reread verses 2-8. What does the supernatural brightness of Jesus (vv. 3-4) and the decent of the cloud (v. 7) tell us about Jesus' person and work? (Remember the cloud and the bright light from Exodus 19.)

2. Look at versus 4-12. What does the presence of Moses and Elijah and the voice from the cloud tell us about Jesus' person and work?

3. Refer to verses 2-8. Why does the voice from the cloud add, "Listen to Him!"? What do we learn from this?

4. Why do you think the transfiguration occurs right after Jesus' teaching on his death? Why is this not just important for the disciples but for us?

5. In verses 11-13, what does Jesus mean in his reference to Elijah? What is Jesus trying to teach them in this reference?

6. From verses 19 and 23, what does Jesus see as the basic problem of all who are involved? Why does Jesus speak so sharply to the disciples? Why can't they handle the situation?

7. What do we learn about faith from this passage?

8. How does the disciples' argument on the road (vv. 33-34) show why they could not grasp the teaching of Jesus' impending death?

9. In verses 36-37, Jesus likens true discipleship to child-likeness. What is he teaching about himself and us with the metaphor?

10. Jesus speaks more often about hell than any other person in the Bible. What does this tell us?

Prayer

Father God, Thank you for your salvation through Jesus. Please shape my heart to continue further into the depths of what it means to know you and be redeemed by you. Amen.