



Part 7 Intense Vision Mark 9:1-10

Jesus always blasts out of the humdrum boxes we put him in! There's no better example than the Transfiguration – the moment he reveals his “secret identity” to the disciples. Why does Jesus do this? He knows their vision is clouded – especially about who He is, and what His kingdom is!

Jesus asked them: “...Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?”
Mark 8:17, 18

He then began to teach them that he must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders... killed... and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus... rebuked Peter. ‘Get behind me, Satan!’ he said. ‘You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.’” Mark 8:31-33

Jesus: ‘What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? ...I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.’” Mark 8:36; 9:1

My life is changed when I focus on...

1. Who _____ really is

“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. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.” Mark 9:2, 3

2. What _____ really like

“And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.” Mark 9:4

3. What _____ really says

“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.’ (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: ‘This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!’” Mark 9:5-7 (See 2 Peter 1:16-18)

4. What _____ really holds

“Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. 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. They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what ‘rising from the dead’ meant.” Mark 9:8-10

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today's topic!

This week's memory verse: *“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?”* Mark 8:36

Monday

Read Mark 8:35-9:10. Write down two areas of your life where you feel you're out-of-focus.

Look at the four points from the sermon. Which of these come easiest for you? Which of these is hardest? Why do you think that is?

Write down one key thing you learned from the sermon and how it relates to the out-of-focus areas of your life.

Thank God today for the Bible. Thank Him for including the story of the transfiguration in the Bible. Ask Him to help you apply what you learn to your life. Ask Him to help you focus on what is true this week.

Tuesday

Read Mark 9:2-3, John 10:27-30 & 14:8-9. In your own words, describe the scene in Mark 9:2-4. Why do you think this happened?

What do you learn about Jesus in these verses?

What is the difference between head knowledge of who Jesus is and focusing on Jesus?

Think about the areas of life where you feel out-of-focus. Write down specific ways focusing on Jesus could impact those areas.

How will you apply this to your life today and this week?

Thank God today for sending Jesus to earth to teach you about who He is. Ask God to help you move past head knowledge only, to heart knowledge too. Ask Him to remind you throughout the day to focus on Jesus.

Wednesday

Read Mark 9:4 & 1 John 3:2. Who appeared with Jesus at the transfiguration?

What do you think is significant about the fact that two people appeared with Jesus?

Sometimes it is difficult to remember that there were millions of Christians before you walked through this world and there will be many that follow you. Why do you think it is important to understand the immensity and eternal nature of the Kingdom of God?

How can focusing on what the Kingdom of God really is help you in your life now?

Thank God today that, regardless of your earthly heritage, your spiritual heritage is millennia deep. Thank Him for the privilege of being part of His Kingdom. Pray for an eternal perspective on the areas of your life that seem out-of-focus.

Thursday

Read Mark 9:5-7 & 2 Peter 1:16-18. Put yourself in the disciples' place. How do you think you would have responded?

How can you relate to Peter's response? (Think about the last time you should have kept quiet but didn't or the last time you were speechless.)

How did the transfiguration impact Peter's future ministry?

Imagine hearing the voice of God from heaven. What an awesome experience! What was God's instruction to the disciples?

How can focusing on what Jesus says help you in the areas of life that are out-of-focus?

Thank God today for the Bible. Thank Him that you live in a country and time when you have access the Bible. Ask Him to help you apply what you read in the Bible. Pray that as you study the Bible the areas of your life that seem out-of-focus will be more clear.

Friday

Read Mark 9:8-10 & 1 Thess. 4:14-17 & Rev. 21:1-5. What does Jesus tell the disciples about His future? What was their response?

What do the other verses you read tell you about your future? How does this help you bring life into focus?

How do these verses encourage you?

Thank God today that your future is secure. Thank Him for His power and love for you. Ask God to give you an eternal perspective on life.

Saturday

Today please finish any meditations you might have missed, and please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that you will continue grow in wisdom, grace and the knowledge of Christ.