

Daily Bible Study

“Misunderstanding The Messianic Mission”

Mark 9:9-13

November 21 - 27, 2010

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY – As we continue this week in our study of Mark’s Gospel record we take for our text **Mark 9:9-13**. We could summarize this passage by saying that the disciples, because of the presuppositions concerning how they thought the Messiah was to come and what He was to do, missed the point concerning the *The Messianic Mission*. They just simply *Misunderstood* it. It was not because of a wrong motive on their part; they just simply did not understand what Jesus was teaching them and thankfully, by God’s grace, mercy, and patience, He taught them and in His time opened their eyes to see the truth. I was originally going to title this lesson, **Mark 8:33b Illustrated** because their main problem is that they were *not setting their minds on the things of God, but on the things of men*. They have questions in our text concerning the mission of Jesus The Messiah, because they thought they had it all figured out in their minds how things were to “go down” and they were being told by Jesus that God’s plan and decree was not in line with their presuppositions. We often suffer from this very same problem as we are so prone and quick to rely on what we think or how we think God should do things and fail to listen and learn from His teaching through Sacred Scripture. Jesus will say some things here that in time the disciples will come to fully understand. We even see that in the midst of this question and answer session God graciously reveals to them His truth and they humbly learn and change their thinking. This lesson is so very important for us to learn. We need to heed and apply the wisdom from **James 1:21** and “*receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls*”. Humility is absolutely necessary for growth as not one of us “knows it all” but rather we are all by God’s grace growing in the grace and knowledge of The Lord Jesus Christ. Read our text: **Mark 9:9 - 13** “*Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant. And they asked Him, saying, “Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” Then He answered and told them, “Indeed, Elijah is coming first and restores all things. And how is it written concerning the Son of Man, that He must suffer many things and be treated with contempt? But I say to you that Elijah has also come, and they did to him whatever they wished, as it is written of him.”*”

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: *Father, give me ears to hear You speak from Your Word this week and please help me to always be humble before Your Word and by Your Holy Spirit to learn and grow.*

TUESDAY – **Mark 9:9** “*Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead.*” As we start out into the specifics of the text we read that *they* (Peter, James, and John) along with Jesus are coming down from the mountain where they have just witnessed The Transfiguration of Jesus. Although there would be a time for these men to testify to what they had witnessed on the mount, Jesus knows that this is not the time. Remember that the people and apparently the disciples as well, were looking for The Messiah to come and free them from the oppression of Rome. Jesus has been teaching them that the Messiah’s Mission was to come and suffer, die, and rise again for His people. He was to take upon Himself the punishment they deserved for their sin and hence usher them into the real Kingdom which was not a political one but rather a spiritual one. The forgiveness of sin, their justification and inclusion into the family of God came at the price of the death of God the Son, their Savior and our Savior. Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone of what they had just seen until He had risen from the dead. **Luke 9:36** informs us that they obeyed Jesus telling us *they kept quiet and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen.* This is a pretty remarkable statement which tells us of the genuine obedience of true disciples, for they had not just seen a figment of their imaginations but had actually according to The Apostle Peter, been “*eyewitnesses of His Majesty*” (**2 Peter 1:16**). The full disclosure of the glory and power of Christ was not going to be merely seen in His clothing being made white and shiny on a mountain one lonely night but would instead be revealed in His ultimate conquering of the enemy through His death and resurrection. Granted the Transfiguration was indeed a foreshadowing of this power and glory but *the Son of Man’s* death and resurrection would set this event in its perspective for them.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me be an obedient disciple and may I meditate on the glorious realities of Jesus’ conquering of sin and death on the cross and His triumphant resurrection.

WEDNESDAY – **Mark 9:10 - 11** “*So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant. And they asked Him, saying, “Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”* We read here Mark’s reference to their obedience to Jesus’ command of silence for now but the still had questions concerning *what the rising from the dead meant.* They are still puzzled about Jesus talk of dying and then resurrection from the dead. This is not how they thought the Kingdom would be established. They were guilty of *setting their minds not on the things of God but on the things of men* (**Mark 8:33b**). The very idea of Jesus suffering and dying blew their minds; not to mention why would He die and then be resurrected? No doubt they wondered what this all meant. So we read they ask Jesus a question; namely, “*Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?*” Jesus tells them of His pending death and they are struggling with how the Messiah could die and fulfill all the Messianic prophesies. If He died, wouldn’t so much of what they expected go unfulfilled? It is probable that this question concerning Elijah is on their minds

for they had just seen Elijah standing and talking with the Savior on the mountain. It is also obvious from the text that the *scribes* talked about the coming of Elijah that must precede the Messianic Kingdom and all its blessings for God's people. As William Barclay (The Gospel of Mark) explains, rabbinic tradition stated that Elijah would come three days before The Messiah and on the first day would lament the desolation of the land, then in a voice heard around the world, would cry "Peace cometh to the world". The second day He would cry, "Good cometh to the world", and finally on day three would cry, "Jeshua (salvation) cometh to the world" and then He would restore all things. Most likely these men were thinking, if Jesus is the Messiah, what has happened to Elijah? The disciples no doubt thought of God's words through the prophet found in **Malachi 4:5-6** "*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.*" We will look tomorrow and see that Jesus deals with this question as He answers His men.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: *Father, thank you that Jesus has come to usher in the blessings of the Kingdom to His people. Help me to be a diligent and believing hearer of Your Word.*

THURSDAY– **Mark 9:12** *Then He answered and told them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and restores all things. And how is it written concerning the Son of Man, that He must suffer many things and be treated with contempt?"* The disciples have just asked Jesus a question concerning what the scribes say in regards to the coming of Elijah the prophet. We should note that according to Christ the scribes were right in saying that Messiah's arrival would be preceded by the coming of Elijah and now Jesus continues. In a very matter of fact way Jesus tells them, *Indeed, Elijah is coming first and restores all things.* We'll look further tomorrow at how Jesus says this prophecy was already fulfilled and learn a very important hermeneutical lesson about taking things in a rigid literal fashion by His explanation. For now we focus on what Jesus says concerning Himself, The Messiah, and His Mission. Jesus does answer the question but then poses a question of His own by saying, *And how is it written concerning the Son of Man, that He must suffer many things and be treated with contempt?* Notice that Jesus never loses focus of the central and important work of The Messiah. Even in answering their question He keeps the main thing the main thing by speaking of His, *The Son of Man's suffering and treatment.* Jesus does not quote any specific prophecy to His disciples here but we can reasonably say He refers them to such passages as **Psalms 22:1-18, 69:8-11, 20-21**, and the incredible detailed prophecy of **Isaiah 53**. All of these texts speak to the suffering and treatment of Jesus The Messiah. Before He explains that Elijah has *indeed come* and how he was treated by the people Christ is keeping the focus on Himself and His work by asking these men, *how is it written concerning (Me) the Son of Man?* I would ask you to again notice the necessity of this God ordained work and Divine plan as evidenced by Jesus using the word *must*.

He says that even though Elijah must come and restore all things that in no way sets aside the fact that He must suffer and die. Remember it wasn't in their thinking that triumph would come through suffering and death. They were consumed with their own presuppositions concerning the building and establishing of The Kingdom and Jesus reminds them that it was God's decree The Kingdom come through the cross. Like us, they need to be reminded that God's will is supreme over our will.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You that Your will, although not always fully understood by us sinners is perfect and will always be carried out. Thank You that Your will is for the blessing and salvation of us Your people through our Savior Jesus.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – Mark 9:13 “*But I say to you that Elijah has also come, and they did to him whatever they wished, as it is written of him.*” I mentioned that we can learn a very important hermeneutical (interpretive) lesson of taking everything we read in a rigid literal fashion by looking here at Jesus response. When studying Scripture we take things in a literal fashion according to the context unless Scripture explains otherwise. We must remember and allow Holy Spirit inspired Scripture to interpret Scripture. We know God has spoken and revealed His will and plan through Scripture and at times speaks figuratively, and uses various forms of communication (allegory, parable, metaphors, etc...) to teach us. Jesus here takes a text (**Malachi 4:5-6**) that at face value, taken in a rigid literal fashion appears to be speaking exclusively of the Old Testament prophet Elijah and applies that passage to John The Baptist. Two passages from Matthew clearly illustrate this to us. **Matthew 17:11-13**: “*Jesus answered and said to them, “Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands. Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.”* **Matthew 11:11-15** “*Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” Jesus says that people failed to recognize God's plan being unfolded and treated Elijah, John, and Jesus as they wished. We find comfort in knowing that without erasing human responsibility, God's Divine decree will be carried out. More tomorrow.*

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for Your Word and Holy Spirit that teach me Your truth.