

## Daily Bible Study

### *“The Father’s Affirmation of The Son”*

*Mark 9:2-8*

*November 14 - 20, 2010*

**THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY** – As we return this week to our ongoing study in Mark’s Gospel record we take as our text **Mark 9:2-8**. Beloved, this is a profoundly rich text which not only gives us a look into the loving relationship of Jesus, God the Son, with God The Father but in the words of the writer of Hebrews, helps us “*fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God*” (**Hebrews 12:2**). This lesson is entitled, “*The Father’s Affirmation of The Son*” and the affirmation of Jesus by God The Father which we will see is beautifully connected to **chapter 8**, specifically **Mark 8:31-9:1**. In that passage Jesus has resisted the temptation of Satan which came through Peter’s attempt to tell Jesus He would not suffer and die. We know from the prior text of **Mark 8** that Jesus withstood the temptation and rebuked Peter with the incredible words “*Get behind me Satan...*” Jesus then with His constant love and patience for His own began to teach the disciples concerning His ultimate work of suffering for the sins of His people on the cross. We find that God The Father is pleased and may I say “touched” by the obedience and faithfulness of The Son to the mission of redemption that was planned before time as we know it ever began. The Father responds to His Son by affirming Jesus and displaying glory and honor upon Him through an event we call, “The Transfiguration”. Among other things, we see in the text what we’re calling an Apparent, an Audible, and an Absolute (that is to say “Exclusive”) Affirmation. Read our text: **Mark 9:2 - 8** “*Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them. And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”— because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid. And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!” Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus with themselves.*”

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

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Suggestion for Prayer: *Father, give me ears to hear You speak from Your Word this week and please help me to see Jesus in all His glory and to listen to love, obey, and worship Him.*

**TUESDAY – Mark 9:2** “*Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them.*” We have already saw in the preceding verses that Jesus was teaching the disciples concerning His suffering in death for His peoples sin and also of His conquering through resurrection power and glorious ascension. I mentioned last time that there is some difference of opinion in what Jesus meant in **9:1** when He spoke of *some standing here who will not taste death till they see the Kingdom of God present with power*. Some believe Jesus is speaking to His resurrection and ascension, others view the coming of The Holy Spirit at Pentecost the fulfillment of His words, some see the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 in view, and still others see Him referring to this upcoming display of Kingdom power and splendor in the transfiguration. We will say more concerning this in our upcoming message but we can say that all of these events do give us a glimpse of the manifestation of Kingdom power. The words *taste death* may help us in our determining what event Jesus is referring to. Although it is probable that Jesus is speaking to this Transfiguration event I believe that is not primarily what He has in mind as we read that the Transfiguration took place *after six days*. There is no argument that some of the disciples could have died in that week leading up to this event but it seems better to understand the Lord referring to something other than the Transfiguration itself. We read that the other nine disciples (including Judas who would not see the resurrected Christ) stayed behind for this trip (**Mark 9:14**). Regardless of what specific event Jesus was referring to we can rest in the fact that God knows all things, controls all things, and will carry out His Divine plan even when we may struggle with total comprehension (see-**Isaiah 46:10**). God asks us to stand in awe of Him and trust Him. With that said, it is true that *Peter, James, and John* were about to get a preview or glimpse of Kingdom power as we will see tomorrow.

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

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*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me to be a diligent student of Scripture and ask The Holy Spirit to open my understanding to His word. Also help me be humble and patient with my brothers and sisters as the too study the Scripture.*

**WEDNESDAY – Mark 9:3** “*His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.*” Jesus takes these three men up on a high mountain (possibly Mt. Hermon which is the highest mountain in this region of Caesarea Philippi where they have been) *and He was transfigured before them*. He was in the Greek, literally, Metamorphoo. The word means “to change into another form, to transform, to transfigure”. It is obvious that our English word metamorphosis comes from a related Greek word. All the synoptic Gospels give us various details concerning the event such as Luke informing us that the Transfiguration took place as Jesus was praying (Luke 9:29). Luke adds that Jesus’ *robe became white and glistening* and Matthew records that *His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light*. Regarding the appearance of Jesus only Mark uses this illustration of *His clothes became*

*shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.* Mark does not reference Jesus face but basically in modern vernacular tells us that no bleach or dry cleaning method could make clothes any whiter than those Jesus was wearing. This is an incredible sight to be sure as Mark uses a term found nowhere else in the New Testament (*stilbo*-“to shine, glisten of garments”). This is obviously a picture of The Divine Glory as God’s presence, appearance, and aura is often spoken of throughout Scripture in terms of incredible light (**Psalm 104:2, Daniel 7:9, 1 Timothy 6:16**). I would also suggest the holiness of Christ, the sinless God is depicted here as His clothing reflects His character as pure and brilliant as “*lightning*” (**Luke 9:29** –NIV).

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

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*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, I praise You for being the perfect, sinless, holy God. I also thank You Jesus for never sinning and for taking my horrific dark sin upon yourself on the cross.*

**THURSDAY– Mark 9:4 - 6** “*And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”— because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid.*” Not only was Jesus transformed before the eyes of the disciples but we read that He was visited by *Elijah* and *Moses* upon the mountain. We read that these two men *appeared to them* which does not mean they saw something like a ghost or thought they saw them but rather that these men actually *optanomai* “to look at, behold, to allow oneself to be seen, appear”. *Elijah* and *Moses* were actually there and they *were talking with Jesus*. The very reading of the text gives the reader the impression that talking with Jesus was not an unusual thing for these men as they spoke to Christ without fear and alarm. Surely as redeemed sinners they stood also in awe of The Holy One Jesus Christ but this scene also helps us to see the intimacy and nature of heavenly fellowship which will one day be realized in fullness by all believers as we will see Jesus face to face and have conversation with Him. What an incredible thought! Luke informs us that *Elijah* and *Moses* were talking to Jesus *of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem* (**Luke 9:31**). The subject of their conversation was about the coming death of Christ which also gives us insight concerning the now fuller understanding of the man who represented the Law (*Moses*) and the man who represented the Prophets (*Elijah*). Peter then *answered* although there was not a question asked that is recorded in Scripture. The original word in the Greek can mean “to begin to speak, but always where something has preceded (either said or done) to which the remarks refer”. Peter is reacting to what he is seeing the way he always did; opening his mouth. Some manuscripts of **Matthew 17:4** record Peter as saying, “*I will make three tabernacles...*” which again shows us the God given personality and leadership qualities of Peter which made him the unique man he was. As the text tells us, *because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid* he just starts talking; albeit respectfully (*Rabbi-Mark, Lord-Matthew, Master-Luke*). He did not really know what to say but felt he ought to say and do something in this moment. In putting all

the accounts together we can learn that the fear of the disciples was also brought on by the cloud that was now enveloping them and the voice that would now speak from it.

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

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*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for making me Your child. It will be with holy reverence that I will one day see Jesus face to face; worship You, and stand in Your presence clothed not in my own righteous deeds but rather in Christ's perfect righteousness You have given to me by faith.*

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY – Mark 9:7 - 8** “And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!” Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus with themselves.” We now see the Absolute (Exclusive) Affirmation of The Father. God not only emphasizes the entire context of what we have heard Jesus saying throughout Mark (*listen to me, hear me with an understanding heart*) but now makes His own statement concerning the fact that it is Jesus, His *beloved Son* whom we are to *hear*. All of Jesus ministry so far has been calling men to listen to Him and follow Him and obey Him. Here God exalts the words and work of His Son Jesus despite the Pharisees and other unbeliever's rejection and contradictions of Him. Even the disciples, aided by God Himself are being encouraged and commanded to stay focused on The Son. The truths of the Parable of the Sower are seen in this text as many people heard Jesus but few heeded His call. I am reminded of the lyrics of Rich Mullins who once wrote, “...sometimes my ground was stony, sometimes covered up by thorns and only You could make it what it had to be”. It is God who awakens the dead and gives faith to His people but He has told us that He does it by hearing the message of the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ (**Romans 10:17**). Without faith it is impossible to please God (**Hebrews 11:6**) and graciously God gives us the faith necessary to please Him as a gift (**Ephesians 2:8**). But the gift is not separated from Jesus; it is contained in the hearing of His Gospel; The Gospel of Jesus Christ by which God has spoken to us in these last days...*through His Son* (**Hebrews 1:1-2**). In this and every event recorded in Holy Scripture we must also see the Trinitarian work of God The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as they all work and glory in the conversion of sinful men. This Beloved is our Triune God; “The Three in One”. **2 Corinthians 13:14** “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.”

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

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*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit I praise You; Holy, Holy, Holy!*