

Mark 9:2-13
Glory Waits on the Other Side of Suffering
7/24/22

QTT: [Christ] **CONTEXT:** Christ encourages one of the 7 Churches of Revelation. Revelation 2:8–11 (NASB95) ⁸ “**And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:** ⁹ ‘**I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.** ¹⁰ ‘**Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.** ¹¹ ‘**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.**”

RN: Is suffering no more than a hurdle on our path to Glory? Does overcoming greater hurdles mean greater rewards in Glory? Is basking in God’s Glory greater than wallowing in life’s suffering?

AN: Many see suffering as proof that God isn’t trustworthy, but Jesus removes our blinders as He reveals God’s Faithfulness and His plan to reward us w/ His Glory.

BI: Although, Jesus reveals His Glory to us, He still affirms that our suffering paves the way to sharing His Glory w/ Him. **Please turn in your Bibles to Mk 9:2-13.**

- I. Today, we’ll see who **witnesses** Jesus’ Glory.
- II. And, we’ll see what Peter **blurts out**.
- III. Finally, we’ll see how Jesus **defines** what **Peter, James, and John** have seen.

Glory waits on the other side of suffering. [PRAY]

*The miracle of Jesus’ Transfiguration confirms Peter’s confession that Jesus is **the Christ** (8:29), and it fulfills Jesus’ prophecy that some of His Followers will see the power of God’s Kingdom (9:1). But it also gives Jesus’ **key** Followers a strong reason for a deeper Faith, b/c Jesus reassures them that although Jerusalem and Rome will murder Him, He will return for them in His Heavenly Glory.*

(TRN) In (2-4), Jesus reveals His **Divine nature** to Peter, James, and John.

Mark 9:2–4 (NASB95) ² Six days later, Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, and brought them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; ³ and His garments became radiant and exceedingly white, as no launderer on earth can whiten them. ⁴ Elijah appeared to them along with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus.

(2) 6 days after Jesus makes His prediction about the KOG breaking out in front of His key Followers, He calls on Peter, James, and John to hike up a mountain w/ Him.

A. Technically speaking, if you count the day that Jesus made His prediction (9:1) plus the 6 days leading up to this hike, 7 days have passed. And as such, Jesus' call brings back memories of another time when God called another man up a mountain:

1. **Exodus 24:15–16 (NASB95)** ¹⁵ *Then Moses went up to the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.* ¹⁶ *The glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and on the seventh day He called to Moses from the midst of the cloud.*

2. IOW, just like God revealed Himself during Moses' hike up Mt. Sinai, Jesus will reveal Himself during His Follower's hike up this mountain.

3. And in this case, the mountain is the southern ridge of **9,200'** tall **Mt. Hermon**, located **12** mi. **NE** of **Caesarea Philippi**. It's also the tallest mountain in the area.

B. Then, Mark says that Jesus is "**transfigured**" right before their very eyes. The **Greek** verb for "**transfigured**" means "**to be changed into another form.**" We get our English word "**metamorphosis**" from this verb.

1. Mark is being very, very specific when he says that Jesus transfigures; he means that Jesus changed into a different form of being.

2. IOW, Jesus didn't just change His looks; His human nature changed into His glorified superhuman nature vibrating w/ Heavenly power.

3. This is the same form that Jesus will have when He returns to establish the KOG on earth, during His **1,000**-year reign called the **Millennium**.

(3) Now, Mark quotes Peter's eyewitness testimony: He says that Jesus' clothes start gleaming in an unearthly way.

A. IOW, Jesus' clothes become whiter than any detergent could make them, b/c He's not only infinitely pure but He's brighter than any earthly sunrise.

(4) And, suddenly, **Elijah and Moses** appear right next to Jesus. And both giants of the Faith are talking w/ Him.

A. **Lk 9:31** tells us that they're talking about Jesus' date w/ the cross in **Jerusalem**, and what Jesus will achieve by His death.

1. IOW, Jesus, Elijah, and Moses are talking about how Jesus **the Christ** must die and rise again for our forgiveness, our adoption into God's family, the devil's defeat, and the coming of **God's Kingdom**.

B. Now, their appearance next to Jesus is significant, b/c of what they stand for: Elijah, the **defender** of Yahweh worship and the **herald** who announces the coming of God's Kingdom, stands for the **Prophets**.

1. While Moses, Israel's **deliverer** and **lawgiver**, stands for God's **Law**. IOW, Elijah and Moses stand for the fact that the Prophets and the Law are verifying this non-negotiable fact—Jesus is **the Christ**.

C. QTT: [John] **CONTEXT:** *John describes Christ's Second Coming.* **Revelation 19:11–16 (NASB95)** ¹¹ *And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it [is] called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.* ¹² *His eyes [are] a flame of fire, and on His head [are] many diadems; and He has a name written [on Him] which no one knows except Himself.* ¹³ *[He is] clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.* ¹⁴ *And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white [and] clean, were following Him on white horses.* ¹⁵ *From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.* ¹⁶ *And on His robe and on His thigh, He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."*

D. APPL: Nothing can withstand Christ's Glorified nature that vibrates w/ Divine power, and He'll **infuse** us w/ this power when He returns to conquer sin and death.

We can bravely face life's trials, b/c Glory waits on the other side of suffering.

(TRN) In (5-8), Peter blurts out what he's **thinking**.

Mark 9:5–8 (NASB95) ⁵ *Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tabernacles, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah."* ⁶ *For he did not know what to answer; for they became terrified.* ⁷ *Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!"* ⁸ *All at once they looked around and saw no one with them anymore, except Jesus alone.*

(5-6) Peter and the rest are shaking in their sandals, so he blurts out, **"Teacher, it's really great seeing this. So, why don't we set-up 3 lean-tos for You and the other teachers: 1 for You, 1 for Elijah, and 1 for Moses? Then, we can stay here longer."**

A. IOW, by suggesting **3** lean-tos, Peter shows that he understands the KOG has come, b/c **Zech 14:16** says all nations will celebrate the **Feast of Booths** when it does.

B. But, Peter's also expressing the **3** wrong-headed ideas that are ricocheting back and forth in his panic-stricken brain at this terrifying moment:

1), Peter thinks that Jesus, Elijah, and Moses are **equally** important. 2) He thinks that God's Kingdom has finally come in its fullness. 3) he thinks that Jesus is just kidding about being murdered.

C. IOW, Peter and the others think that Jesus is special, but never in their wildest dreams did they think He was special enough to talk face to face w/ Elijah and Moses, let alone vibrate w/ KOG power. And, His murder? Well, don't even go there!

(7) Then, God really let's Peter, James and John have it. Suddenly, God's Shekinah Glory wraps around Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, and Peter, James, and John, and the voice of Mt. Sinai booms out, **"He is My Son, Whom I love. Obey Him!"**

A. IOW, just like what happened at Jesus' baptism—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel endorses Jesus w/ infinite love, infinite power, and infinite authority.

1. As such, Jesus fulfills 2 prophecies: 1) [Moses] **Deuteronomy 18:15 (NASB95)**¹⁵ ***"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him."***

1.1 IOW, Moses predicts that God will send another Prophet like himself, and the people must obey Him. **READ THAT** Jesus is this Moses-like Prophet.

2) [God] **Deuteronomy 18:19 (NASB95)**¹⁹ ***"It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require [it] of him."***

2.1 IOW, when this Moses-like Prophet comes, He will speak God's Truth w/ God's character, so God will hold each man personally responsible for his disobedience.

B. So, Jesus rises infinitely above every man even Elijah and Moses, b/c Jesus is the Divine Son of God Whom God seals w/ His glorious, unlimited approval.

C. So, every Follower of Jesus Christ must heed and obey these Truths: B/c Jesus dies for our sins, God expects us to trust Him, live for Him, and even suffer for Him.

1. IOW, since Jesus put flesh and blood on the love, mercy, and forgiveness of God, we must respond w/ honest hearts that believe, receive, and achieve His will.

(8) Now, this Truth becomes extremely clear when Elijah and Moses suddenly disappear. Then, in the deathly silence, Peter, James, and John uncover their faces.

A. God's voice made them assume the fetal position. And, when they relax a little more, they see that they're alone w/ the Jesus Whom they know.

B. So, in this moment, God shows these 3 men that Jesus succeeds Elijah and Moses as the final go-between of God's rule in the present and future age.

1. IOW, Elijah and Moses have done their duty. And now, Jesus **the Christ**, God's Son, and the World's Savior replaces them, b/c **He** is God's supreme King and Prophet.

(TRN) In (9-13), Jesus **defines** what Peter, James, and John have seen.

Mark 9:9–13 (NASB95) ⁹ *As they were coming down from the mountain, He gave them orders not to relate to anyone what they had seen, until the Son of Man rose from the dead.* ¹⁰ *They seized upon that statement, discussing with one another what rising from the dead meant.* ¹¹ *They asked Him, saying, “[Why is it] that the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”* ¹² *And He said to them, “Elijah does first come and restore all things. And [yet] how is it written of the Son of Man that He will suffer many things and be treated with contempt?”* ¹³ *“But I say to you that Elijah has indeed come, and they did to him whatever they wished, just as it is written of him.”*

(9) As Jesus, Peter, James, and John start hiking down Mt. Herman, Jesus tells them to zip their lips about what they've seen. Their reaction to His Transfiguration shows that they still entertain a lot of wrong-headed ideas about Him and His mission.

A. But, it's also critical to see that Jesus sets a time limit on His gag order. IOW, at a predetermined time the future Peter, James, and John **will** tell what've they've seen.

1. But then it will be from the viewpoint of having seen Jesus **after** His physical Resurrection from the dead.

2. And then God will imprint on their souls Who Jesus is and what He's done to glorify God and free humanity.

B. Furthermore, they'll see how Jesus achieves it all through Grace, suffering, and obedience. They'll see it **then**, but they don't see it now.

(10) Right now, they're still trying to figure out what's happened to them way up there on good ol' Mt. Hermon. So, they keep debating what Jesus' phrase “rising from the dead” means, b/c to their way of thinking **the Christ** cannot, no way Jose', die.

A. But, God's Word plainly says through King David, **Psalm 16:10 (NASB95)** ¹⁰ ***For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.***

1. IOW, on Judgment Day King David will physically rise from the dead, b/c **the Christ**, his Christ, will physically rise from the dead b/f him.

B. But, this is way too big for these panicky, dizzy, all shook-up men to grasp. After all, it would take the greatest miracle of all time for that to happen! Wouldn't it?

(11-13) Elijah and Moses' appearance, Jesus' Transfiguration, and Jesus' statement on His Resurrection all point to the idea that the **End of Days** is near.

A. So, to justify themselves, Peter, James, and John say that the scribes have taught them from boyhood that Elijah must come before Judgment Day.

Malachi 4:5–6 (NASB95) [God] ⁵ *“Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.”* ⁶ *“He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse.”*

1. IOW, before **the Christ** comes, Elijah will prepare Israel spiritually to receive Him.

2. So, Peter, James, and John are thinking that b/c of Elijah's restoring work **the Christ** won't need to suffer. But Jesus puts that baby to bed right now.

B. Jesus agrees w/ the scribes that Elijah does indeed come and prepares Israel b/f **the Christ** comes. But then He asks Peter, James, and John a question to open their minds to His take on the subject.

1. Jesus asks them, *“Does Elijah's coming remove the necessity for the Son of Man to suffer and die? The Bible's very clear; He will suffer and die.”*

2. For example, [Christ prophesies through David] Psalm 22:6–8 (NASB95) ⁶ *But I am a worm and not a man, A reproach of men and despised by the people.* ⁷ *All who see me sneer at me; They separate with the lip, they wag the head, [saying],* ⁸ *“Commit [yourself] to the LORD; let Him deliver him; Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him.”*

2.1 IOW, most in Israel hate **the Christ** so much that they mock Him as He dies.

3. Isaiah 53:3 (NASB95) ³ *He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.*

3.1 IOW, **the Christ** personally knows the depths of human suffering and shame, and most of Israel rejects Him for it.

C. **But** Jesus also says that Elijah **did** come in a vividly symbolic way when **John the Baptizer** went out and told people that Jesus—**the Christ**—was coming.

1. IOW, the Baptizer walked in Elijah's shoes the 1st time Jesus came. And just like **King Ahab** and **Queen Jezebel** victimized Elijah, **King Herod** and **Queen Herodias** victimized and the Baptizer at their pleasure (1 Ki 19:1-3, 10).

D. But, the 2nd time Jesus comes, Elijah will walk in his own shoes. And then, the Prophet of **Yahweh worship** will prepare Israel to see for time and eternity that Jesus is Yahweh (Rv 11:1-13). But, Elijah, in turn, will suffer the Baptizer's fate.

1. IOW, Israel will do to the **literal** Elijah what they did to the **symbolic** Elijah. IOW, ruthless, cruel, ignorant men will shame him and murder him as they did the Baptizer.

2. Also, until Jesus returns, ruthless, cruel, ignorant men will shame and murder Christians, b/c, as Jesus shows us the way to Glory is—**the way of the Cross**.

E. QTT: [Jesus] **CONTEXT:** *Jesus describes the cost and rewards of following Him. Matthew 16:24–27 (NASB95)* ²⁴ **Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.”**

F. APPL: Christ has suffered contempt, He has physically risen from the dead, and He has ascended to God’s right hand, so He is the only One **qualified** to lead us from suffering to God’s Glory.

Jesus can help us overcome any ordeal, b/c Glory waits on the other side of suffering.

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