

“Eyewitnesses Of His Majesty”

Mark 9:1-13

7/7/24

Message 21

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Eyewitnesses Of His Majesty”

- **Illustration**

- **The Beauty of God’s creation**

- God has surrounded us with Amazing World in which we live
 - His Creation Goes beyond our ability to put into words!
 - He created it for our great pleasure & joy
 - What are some of the most beautify places you have seen?
 - I have seen some AMAZING places
 - Captured a few pics...
 - Always disappointed with every picture I have taken – because it fails to capture the entire beauty

- **Show Pictures**

- The Sea of Galilee
 - Wrights Lake
 - Monterey
 - Lake Tahoe

- **BUT the GREATEST Most AMAZING**

- We have YET to SEE!
 - Because It is NOT found in this world or this life!

- The GREATEST will be the MAJESTY of our Jesus Christ!
- We will one day open these eye in death
 - And see the most Amazing Awesome sight – Jesus in ALL His GLORY
- In our text today
 - Peter James & John got to see something we can't even imagine

• **Review – Mark 8**

- **1st Disciples Believe In The Power Of Jesus vs. 10-26**
 - **1st Jesus feed the 4000**
 - **2nd Jesus Teaches / Warns on the Sin of Leaven**
 - **3rd The Touch Of Jesus On The Blind Man vs. 22-26**
- **2nd Disciples Believe In The Person Of Jesus vs. 27-33**
 - **1st Who Do Men SAY That I AM? vs. 27-30**
 - Confusion
 - Most Important Question you will ask
 - **2nd The Son Of Man Must Suffer vs. 31-33**
 - He Must Suffer
 - So MUST We
 - This is KEY

- IF JESUS MUST SUFFER –

- How / Why should it be any different for us

- **3rd Disciples Believe In HIS Plan & Purpose For Our Lives vs. 24-38**

- **1st The Condition Of Discipleship v. 34**

Mark 8:34 (NKJV)

34 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, *“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*

- Deny – Take Up – Follow Me –

- Sure - Sounds like Jesus is calling us to a life that is completely surrendered to HIM

- That is willing to follow His example in suffering

- *Jim Elliot; Father, take my life, yea, my blood if Thou wilt, and consume it with Thine enveloping fire. I would not save it, for it is not mine to save. Have it, Lord, have it all. Pour out my life as an oblation for the world. Blood is only of value as it flows before Thine altar.*

- **2nd The Consequences Of Discipleship vs. 35-38**

Mark 8:35–38 (NKJV)

35 *For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.*

36 *For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?*

37 *Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*

38 *For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”*

- True Life – is giving it to Jesus

- If we Suffer for Him here...
 - God indeed does transform suffering into glory
 - That is the whole point of this passage
 - Jesus spoke of suffering – in our text today He speaks of Glory

• **So, this morning let's look at 3 POWERFUL TRUTH to Eyewitnesses Of His Majesty**

- The Revelation Of The Majesty Of Jesus Christ vs. 1-4
- The Response To His Majesty vs. 5-8
- The Requirements Concerning The Majesty vs. 9-13

The Revelation Of The Majesty Of Jesus Christ vs. 1-4

• **First: The Disciples He Picked vs. 1-2**

- **1st It Was Based On His Promise v. 1**

Mark 9:1 (NKJV)

1 And He said to them, *“Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”*

- **1st NOW There has been Some Confusion in Regards to this verse**

- What did He mean? – There are 5 Different Views
- **1st Destruction of Jerusalem**
 - Cannot refer to the destruction of Jerusalem because James was beheaded in Acts 12:2 before the destruction took place and James was one of the 3 at the transfiguration.
- **2nd Second Coming –**

- Not possible – he hasn't come yet
- The words “some who shall not taste death till they see” suggests that they will taste death after they see.
- At the second coming believers will not taste death but will be forever delivered from it.
- **3rd In some kind of Spiritual or Symbolic way.**
 - Jesus is not showing us what God is like
 - But what we will be like.
- **4th Death / Resurrection / Ascension**
 - Refers to disciples who would be there.
- **5th Transfiguration –**
 - Most Possible
 - In connects with the immediate event and the word “some”.
 - Giving them a taste or glimpse of the Kingdom.
 - He was referring to His Transfiguration
 - They saw the Kingdom
 - So how is it that they saw the kingdom of God?
 - I'll let Peter tell you...

2 Peter 1:16–18 (NKJV)

16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

- **The kingdom of God is many things**

- We think of a 1000 years reign of Christ
- We think of the Heavenly City New Jerusalem
- We think of our world being totally restored and changed

- **But in reality...its much simpler than that**

- The kingdom of God is really Jesus - Its ALL about Him!
 - Those guys got a special preview of His glory on that mountain

- **Application - His Kingdom is Coming SOON**

- Let me encourage you His Kingdom is Coming Soon
 - He is coming back for us very soon
 - His Return is OUR great HOPE and WE ARE CLOSE
- Turn to Matthew 24 - Happening right before our EYES

Matthew 24:3–8 (NKJV)

3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

4 And Jesus answered and said to them: *“Take heed that no one deceives you.*

5 *For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.*

6 *And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*

7 *For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.*

8 *All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

- Also like the Days of Noah - Let go thru a Checklist...

- Wars and rumors of war... CHECK
- Nation rising against nation... CHECK
- Ethnic group against ethnic group... CHECK
- Famines... CHECK
- Violence increasing... CHECK
- Sexual Immorality increasing... CHECK
- Pestilence... CHECK
- Earthquakes in various places... CHECK
- Jesus says, these are just the beginning of sorrows.

- Hold on to your hat church

- The RAPTURE is coming SOON
- The voice of the arch angel and the trumpet of God could blow any minute
- Are you READY

- **2nd His Picking Of Peter, James and John v. 2**

Mark 9:2 (NKJV)

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.

Luke 9:28 (NKJV)

28 Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

▪ **1st 6 Or 8 Days**

• 2 Possible Explanations

○ 1st Luke says “ABOUT”

○ 2nd Luke includes the day of His remark, and the day it happened

▪ Whereas Matthew and Mark refer to the days in between.

▪ **2nd Location**

• Jesus has taken the disciples North to Caesarea Philippi

○ **Show Map / Pics**

○ On the slopes of Mount Hermon

○ About 25 miles north of the Sea of Galilee

• Since Jesus is in this area

○ Many commentators believe that it was Mt. Hermon

▪ Now Some say Mt. Tabor

○ I believe it Mt Hermon

▪ Mark says; He took them to a “High Mountain”

- It's the highest peak in Israel at 9,230 feet
- Its covered in snow for most of the year
- It has Israel's has only ski resort
- It gives you a clear shot of all of the Promised Land
- **3rd The Men He Picked**
 - Jesus took these guys by themselves a few times...
 - At least on 3 occasions
 - 1st When Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead
 - 2nd Here, on the mountain.
 - 3rd When Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane
 - BUT WHY these three?
 - Some say HIS inner-circle
 - That they are very Special
 - Some commentators have said Jesus highly esteemed these guys...
 - WHY were they SPECIAL
 - Because they were a little superior than the others
 - Because they were more committed

- Because Jesus was going to do more thru them
- BUT I don't know if that's the case
 - Why? (This is just speculation!)
 - These guys are NOT portrayed as the elite of the disciples in scripture
 - Track with me
 - Peter:
 - Just a little over a week before this...
 - RIGHT AFTER Peter's wonderful confession...
 - He rebukes Jesus
 - Jesus has to look at him and say, "Get behind me Satan!"
 - James and John:
 - They want to call down fire
 - Jesus called these two "Sons of Thunder" (Mark 3)
 - Their Mother asked Jesus if they can sit at His right and left hand / position of POWER (Matthew 20:20)
 - I don't see these guys as the elite...
 - I see them more as the ones who need more special attention

- Like Jesus has to keep an eye on them or something
- Now I know that's speculation
- But if its true
 - I like how the Lord uses knuckleheads and screw-ups
 - If Jesus can use them...He can use us!
- Important for us to Remember...

1 Corinthians 1:29 (NKJV)
29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

- **Seriously the church needs to stop making "Christians Celebrates"**

• **Second: The Display Of His Glory v. 3**

Mark 9:3 (NKJV)
3 His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.

Luke 9:29 (NKJV)
29 As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.

Matthew 17:2 (NKJV)
2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

- **1st They Are Attempting to Describe What is INDESCRIBABLE**
 - I love this –
 - It just means God is way Bigger than we can understand

- 2nd His Countenance Changed

- **Luke & Matthew –**

- *As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered*
- *He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun*

- **Transfigured**

- Greek: Metamorphoo (“metamorphosis”)
 - We get our English word: “Metamorphosis”
- Means:
 - To change into another form, not merely a change in outward appearance
 - It means a change on the outside that comes from within
 - *Wiersbe; “If we’re not careful, we think of the transfiguration as just a bright light shined on Jesus. But this wasn’t a light coming on Jesus from the outside. “The word transfigured describes a change on the outside that comes from the inside. It is the opposite of ‘masquerade,’ which is an outward change that does not come from within.”*
 - His Real Nature was being concealed by His earthly body
- A Metamorphosis is when a
 - A caterpillar turns into a butterfly
 - Tadpole turns into a frog

- The outside is transformed into what they are truly on the inside

- **That is what is happening here to Jesus**

- The reality of who He is was no longer veiled by human flesh...
- His Glory, His Divinity, came shining through
- Matthew says that His face shown like the sun
- You ever tried to look at the sun...not for long!

- **2nd His Clothes Glistened “His robe became white and glistening” v. 3**

- **What Mark said...**

Mark 9:3 (NKJV)

3 His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.

- A white that you and I have never seen before...
 - Because its supernatural
 - The word for “glistening” carries the meaning of lightning...the flash of lightning
 - This was the greatest confirmation of His Deity yet...
 - As He allowed His glory to radiate through His whole being
- We Think “Wow” What an Awesome miracle!”
 - But we need to understand, this was not the miraculous part

- The miraculous part was that the VEIL OF HIS HUMAN FLESH could hold it in, in the first place
- That human flesh can actually contain divinity...that's the miracle!
- *Spurgeon; "This was not a new miracle, but the temporary pause of an ongoing miracle. The real miracle was that Jesus, most of the time, could keep from displaying His glory. "For Christ to be glorious was almost a less matter than for him to restrain or hide his glory. It is forever His glory that He concealed His glory; and that, though He was rich, for our sakes He became poor."*

▪ **This is who Jesus truly is... AWESOME**

- Turn to The Revelation Of Jesus Christ...Revelation 1:11-17

Revelation 1:11–17 (NKJV)

11 saying, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,"* and, *"What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."*

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;

15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;

16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, *"Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last."*

- THE AWESOME presence Of God
- So Critical we NEVER forget His Holiness!!!

- **Third: The Discourse He Had With Moses And Elijah v. 4**

- **1st The Physical Recognition Of Them By The Disciples v. 4**

Mark 9:4 (NKJV)

4 And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.

Luke 9:30 (NKJV)

30 And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah,

- **1st How is this Possible for Moses and Elijah to be there?**

- How did

- Moses who lived and died 1400 years before
- Elijah who had lived and died 900 years before
- Get up on this Mountain to talk with Jesus

- Answer

- When a person dies in Christ
 - To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord
- Moses - who had died a physical death
- Elijah - who had been translated
- Are both alive and well in the Spiritual Realm with God

- **2nd The fact that they knew who they were is so interesting**

- Did Jesus introduce them?
- Were they wearing name tags? “Hi, my name is _____”

- Perhaps the Spirit just revealed it to them
- But in any case, their identity remained the same...they were who they were!
- People often wonder if we will know each other in heaven
- Let me say this...we won't be dumber in heaven! So YES!

○ **2nd The Possible Reasons For It Being Moses And Elijah**

▪ **1st Law and Prophets**

- Moses - Represented the Law
- Elijah - Represented the Prophets
- Two great divisions of the O.T
- The Jesus said in Matthew 5:17

○ "That He came to Fulfill the Law and the Prophets"

▪ **2nd Both of their ministries were also pictures of the earthly ministry of Jesus**

- ELIJAH was the prophet
 - Who moved in power
 - In the miracles
 - He healed the sick
 - Raised the dead
 - Defeated Prophets of Baal

- MOSES was the GREAT LIBERATOR
 - He was the one God used to lead Israel out of Bondage in Egypt
- In Luke 9:31 – We See what the conversation was all about

Luke 9:31 (NKJV)

31 who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

- These 2 spoke with Jesus about His death (Luke 9:31)
 - His work on the cross would be the ultimate fulfillment of their ministries
 - Man's greatest enemy would be defeated!
 - Mankind would have the opportunity to be truly & totally free! HEALED
- **3rd POSSIBLE - These 2 men represent the 2 WAYS by which men have entered heaven**
 - MOSES - Entered through natural process of death
 - ELIJAH - Was one of two men caught up to heaven without death...in the fiery chariot
 - Believers today normally enter into glory through death, as Moses did
 - But Paul tells us that the generation of Christians who are living in the last days who will not see death - Rapture
 - There are 2 ways a believer can enter into glory
 - Moses - DEATH

- Elijah – RAPTURE

The Response To His Majesty vs. 5-8

• First: Peter's Response vs. 5-6

- **1st Let us make three tabernacles v. 5**

Mark 9:5 (NKJV)

5 *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"—*

▪ Peter must have said to himself:

- This is Good
 - This is how it should be.
- Forget this business about
 - Suffering, being rejected, and crucified.
- Let's build some tabernacles so we can live this way with the glorified Jesus all the time."
 - Who can blame him!

- **2nd Because he did not know what to say v. 6**

Mark 9:6 (NKJV)

6 *because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid.*

▪ Notice the last phrase, "not knowing what he said"

- But Peter's thinking was OFF
 - Let's build three tabernacles to house
 - Jesus, Moses and Elijah

- This put Moses and Elijah on the SAME LEVEL as Jesus
- Peter would have been much better off saying,
 - Let's build ONE Tabernacle for you Jesus where we all can come and worship
- **Application - Here is a good lesson Church**
 - When you don't know what to say –
 - DON'T SAY ANYTHING
 - I think we would do well to listen more than we speak
 - *There's a saying, "Its better to let people think you're a fool, than to open your mouth and dispel all doubt"*

Proverbs 10:19 (NKJV)

19 *In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise.*

- **3rd Luke Adds - Their Failure To Pray With Jesus (Luke 9:32)**

Luke 9:32 (NKJV)

32 *But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him.*

- **1st Jesus took them up there to pray**
 - Again, I don't see them as super disciples...they fell asleep
 - They will do it again in the Garden of Gethsemane twice...
 - After Jesus pleads with them to stay up and pray with Him

▪ **2nd Lesson: We are warned to watchful:**

• **1st For our Adversary (1 Peter 5:8)**

1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)

8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

• **2nd For His Return**

Matthew 24:42 (NKJV)

42 *Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.*

- Many time's were encouraged to be watchful
- Ask yourself, "Am I sleeping in any area in my life spiritually?"

Romans 13:11–14 (NKJV)

11 *And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.*

12 *The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.*

13 *Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.*

14 *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.*

• **Second: God's Response vs. 7-8**

- **1st And a cloud came and overshadowed them v. 7a**

Mark 9:7 (NKJV)

7 **And a cloud came and overshadowed them;** *and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"*

▪ **What was this Cloud?**

- Called the Shekinah Glory

- This is the cloud that
 - Filled the Wilderness Tabernacle and the Temple
 - It was the pillar of cloud that stood by Israel in the wilderness (Exodus 13:21-22).
 - It was the cloud of glory that God spoke to Israel from (Exodus 16:10).
 - It was from this cloud of glory that God met with Moses and others (Exodus 19:9, 24:15-18, Numbers 11:25, 12:5, 16:42).
 - It was the cloud of glory that stood by the door of the Tabernacle (Exodus 33:9-10).
 - It was from this cloud that God appeared to the High Priest in the Holy Place inside the veil (Leviticus 16:2).
 - It was this cloud God that appeared to Solomon
 - When the temple was dedicated
 - So filling the temple that the priests could not continue (1 Kings 8:10-11, 2 Chronicles 5:13-14).
 - It was the cloud of Ezekiel's vision
 - Filling the temple of God with the brightness of His glory (Ezekiel 10:4).

- It was the cloud of glory that overshadowed Mary
 - When she conceived Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35).
- It was the cloud of glory that received Jesus
 - Into heaven at His ascension (Acts 1:9).
- It was the cloud that will display the glory of Jesus Christ
 - When He returns in triumph to this earth (Luke 21:27).
- **2nd This is My beloved Son. Hear Him! Vs. 7b-8**

Mark 9:7–8 (NKJV)

*7 And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, **"This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"***

8 Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus with themselves.

- **1st As To His Divine Identity "This is My beloved Son..."**
 - Jesus is God's Beloved Son...He is unique...much loved Son / GOD
- **2nd As To His Supreme Importance "Hear Him!"**
 - Listen to Him...Jesus is the Word of God
 - We are to listen to Him...
- **3rd Application**
 - Listen to the Word OVER Experience / Feelings
 - Sadly - So many "Christians" are listening to their Experiences / Feelings more than His Word

- The Church Needs to get back to Listening to His Word
 - The Culture has too much impact on the church – this should be the other way around
 - This is My Beloved Son, Hear Him!

The Requirements Concerning The Majesty vs. 9-13

• First: The Purpose v. 9-10

- 1st He commanded them that they should tell no one vs. 9-10

Mark 9:9–10 (NKJV)

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.

10 So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant.

- Keep it to yourselves
 - They still had confusion in regards to Jesus Mission (DBR)

• Second: The Problem vs. 10-11

- 1st Why do the scribes say v. 11

Mark 9:11 (NKJV)

11 And they asked Him, saying, “Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”

- The coming of Elijah before the Messiah
 - Was clearly prophesied in Malachi 3:1 / 4:5-6.
 - So the disciples wondered...
 - “If Jesus is the Messiah, Then where is Elijah?”

- **Third: The Proof vs. 12-13**

Mark 9:12–13 (NKJV)

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?”*

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.”*

- **1st The First “Elijah” has also come – In the person of John the Baptist.**

- Malachi 3:1 JTB

Matthew 17:13 (NKJV)

13 Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.

- John was not a reincarnation of Elijah
 - But he did minister in the role and spirit of Elijah.
 - John the Baptist was a type or a picture of Elijah.
 - JTB also Suffered like Jesus said here
 - John had denied that he was Elijah come from the dead (John 1:21, 25),
 - But he did minister in the “spirit and power of Elijah” (Luke 1:16–17).
- **2nd The Second “Elijah” will come before Jesus Second Coming**

- Malachi 4:5–6

- Speaks of Elijah coming before the second coming of Christ
- There would be a future coming of Elijah,

- Before the time of Great Tribulation.
 - Some students connect this with Revelation 11:2-12
 - The 2 Witnesses during the Tribulation Period
- **3rd And how is it written concerning the Son of Man, that He must suffer many things and be treated with contempt?**
 - Jesus here drew attention to the contrast between His first and second comings.
 - The disciples were well aware of the prophecies concerning the glory of the Messiah
 - Jesus asked them to consider the prophecies concerning His suffering and that He must be treated with contempt.

Closing

- Suffering FIRST
- GLORY Next
- His GLORY is COMING

Communion

- First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)
- Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28
- Third: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26
- Fourth: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

23 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*

24 *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."*

25 *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*

26 *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*