

Focus: Jesus is not "one among equals". He is the only Son of the only true God, who willingly submits to the Father's plan for salvation. His voice *alone* is the one we must listen to and follow.

Background:

Jesus speaks of his suffering/death/resurrection (22)

Speaks of glorious return as Son of Man (26,27)

Introduction: The experience of stunned silence. (2 Corinthians 12:2ff) 14 yrs ago?

I. With Christ on the Mountain

A. Alone with the Father - in prayer (28)

1. Draws near to the Father for strength, assurance

a. Needs affirmation

- Is this the one he *must* take?

b. God answers His prayer

2. Glory unveiled (true identity exposed fully) (29)

a. In His humiliation he has been veiled

b. Veil is lifted – revealing... John 1:14; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3

c. Why lift that veil?

- Affirmation of the Son

- Glory is "veiled" in the flesh – but not removed

B. In High Council

1. Moses and Elijah (30)

a. Law and prophets - key figures

- Two major periods of Israel's history, history of salvation

(Deuteronomy 18:15; Malachi 4:5) (Words of the prophets)

b. Coming not as his equals, but as his servants.

- Jesus fulfills law and prophets!

c. Encouragement

2. Christ's "Departure" (His *exodus*) (31)

-His voluntary service John 10:17,18

C. The Father's affirmation

1. Enveloping cloud - Shekinah Glory

2. God speaks again! (35)

a. "My Chosen One"

b. "Listen to Him!"

1) Message to the disciples.

2) Message to the world! (Matthew 25:41)

D. The privileged witnesses

1. Peter's proposal - (33)
 - a. Generous?
 - We can just stay here.
 - We'll serve you.
 - b. Dangerous!
 - Make Jesus equal to *His servants* (Moses and Elijah)
 - **Keep Jesus from the way of suffering!**
2. Fear of the cloud (34)
 - Sense the glory, power & *danger*
 - Majesty of God and of Jesus revealed!
3. Stunned Silence (36)

II. With Christ in the Valley (37-43) (Matthew 17 / Mark 9)

A. While you were gone....

1. A father's grief (help me in my unbelief - Mark 9:24)
2. The disciples' failure
 - Mark 9:29 "only by prayer"

B. "Listen to Him" (41)

1. Rebukes disciples for
2. Urgency!!
3. Rebukes the demon
4. Compassion – in spite of urgency. (42)

C. "Majesty" (43)

- It can't be altogether hidden!

III. In the World With Christ

1. Christ stands alone!

- a. See Jesus as unique? Far above all others?
 - No one is "alongside" Jesus. He has no "rivals" (Romans 1:1-4)
 - Revolutionary thought in His day.
- b. Revolutionary thought in our day too.
 - Pluralistic society vs. *Pluralism* in society
- c. Only one voice we must "listen to – and heed!"

2. Christ with us on the mountains *and in the valleys.*

3. We need affirmation as surely as Jesus did. (2 Corinthians 3:16-18)