

Mark 9:1-13 — “Encouragement to Confused Disciples in Beholding the Glory of Christ in His Transfiguration”

We need not doubt that this marvelous vision was meant to encourage and strengthen our Lord’s disciples. They had just been hearing of the cross and passion, and the self-denial and sufferings to which they must submit themselves, if they would be saved. They were now cheered by a glimpse of the ‘glory that should follow’, and the reward which all faithful servants of their Master would one day receive.

(JC Ryle)

The longer we look on 'created beauties', the leaner and less lovely they grow; so that, by the time we have viewed them forty, fifty, or sixty years—we see nothing but vanity in the creature! But when ten thousand eternities are devoted in beholding the perfection and beauty of Jesus, He still appears more and more lovely—even altogether lovely! (James Meikle)

Background to Mark 9:1-13

- Mark 8-9 overview:
- the RECOGNITION of the Christ (8:27-30)
- the REJECTION of the Christ (8:31-33)
- the REQUIREMENTS of the Christ (8:34-38)
- the RADIANCE of the Christ (9:1-13)

THESIS — This profound & transcendent section encourages the confused disciples by revealing the Savior in His glory. We’ll see the glory of the Savior in 4 headings:

- The Savior **PROMISES** His glory (1)
- The Savior **UNVEILS** His glory (2-6)
- The Savior is **AFFIRMED** in His glory (7-8)
- The Savior **SUFFERS** before His glory (9-13)

The purpose: *To reassure the hearts/faith of the disciples (after he talked about dying); to encourage them in their staggering faith.*

I. The Savior **PROMISES** His Glory (1)

1. WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF JESUS?
 1. it's a very real & certain Kingdom that can be *seen* to the eye (physical).
 2. It's a kingdom that occurs on earth.

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3. it's a kingdom where Christ manifests His brilliant glory
4. it's a kingdom where OT saints reign with Christ
5. it's a kingdom where the cross-work of Christ is centrally remembered.
6. it's a kingdom full of ecstatic and exuberant joy
7. it's a kingdom where Christ's people fall down & worship Him!
8. it's a kingdom where God fulfills His design to honor & magnify the Son before all the world.

II. The Savior **UNVEILS** His glory (2-6)

The “Feast of Tabernacles” — (Lev. 23:42-43; Neh. 8:14-17; Zech. 14:16-21).

- Peter saw this glory as the COMING of the kingdom on earth and the fulfillment of the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles (ZECH 14.16).
- To celebrate the feast. the Jews would leave their homes and live in tents for 8 days.
- The purpose of the FEAST OF TABERNACLES WAS to cause the Jew to look back and remember how he wandered in the wilderness for a period. But it also looked forward to the anticipation of kingdom blessings in the land, which extend to enjoying the Millennium under Messiah’s glory and rule.
- Peter well may have thought the KINGDOM has come (Zech 14) so let’s enjoy the FEAST OF TABERNACLES here.

"Peter suggested that they build three booths probably because of the prophecy in Zechariah 14:16 that the Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) would be celebrated when Christ reigns on the earth. Apparently Peter thought that with Moses, Elijah, the three disciples, and Christ all present, this must be the beginning of the earthly kingdom."

III. The Savior is **AFFIRMED** In His Glory (7-8)

GOD IDENTIFIES JESUS IN 3 WAYS:

1. This is my SON — Son of God -- my Son (Ps 2; Luke 1.31-35)
2. My “BELOVED”/CHOSEN” one - Isaianic Servant of the Lord (Isa 42.1; Luke 23.35)
3. LISTEN TO HIM - Prophet like Moses (Acts 3.22-23; Deut 18.15ff)

IV. The Savior **SUFFERS** Before His Glory (9-13)

What we need is MORE of Christ, more SIGHTS of Christ, DEEPER insight into Christ, a fuller estimation of our Christ, a greater BEHOLDING of our Christ, a tight PRESSING into our Christ.

By beholding the glory of Christ by faith we shall find rest to our souls. Our minds are apt to be filled with troubles, fears, cares, dangers, distresses, ungoverned passion and lusts. By these our thoughts are filled with chaos, darkness and confusion. But where the soul is fixed on the glory of Christ then the mind finds rest and peace. (John Owen, *The Glory of Christ*).

Christ is worthy of all our love and delight. You see how infinitely the Father delights in Him, how He ravishes the heart of God, and will He not ravish our hearts? Surely, He is a drawing Savior (John 12:32).

Nothing but Christ is worthy of your precious affections. May the Lord direct our hearts into the love of Christ! O, that our hearts, love, and delight did meet with the heart of God in this most blessed object! O, let Him who left God's bosom for us, be embraced by us! (John Flavel)

As if she had said, "Look on Him in what respect or particular you wish; cast your eye upon this lovely One, and view Him any way; consider His person, His offices, His works, or any other thing belonging to Him. You will find Him altogether lovely, there is nothing disagreeable in Him, there is nothing lovely without Him. Jesus Christ is the loveliest person souls can set their eyes upon. He is the very essence of all delights and pleasures, the very soul and substance of them! As all the rivers are gathered into the ocean, which is the meeting-place of all the waters in the world—so Christ is that ocean in which all true delights and pleasures meet! Christ infinitely transcends the most excellent and loveliest of created things. The excellencies our altogether lovely Christ are pure and unmixed. He is a sea of sweetness without one drop of gall! (John Flavel)

Study Him. Trust Him. Worship Him. Delight in Him. Speak much of Him. Long to behold Him!

SEE OUR LORD IN ALL HIS GLORY

Tune: Jesus What a Friend for Sinners

See our Lord in all His glory,
 Now arrayed in dazzling white!
 See Him shine in holy splendor,
 Bathed in everlasting light!
 See the law and prophets gather,
 Lifting high the Living Christ!
 See the law and prophets gather,
 Lifting high the Living Christ!

Jesus Lord, we see Your splendor
 Here and now by daily faith.
 In our service, in our suffering
 We will follow unafraid,
 On from glory into glory
 Till we see You face to face,
 On from glory into glory
 Till we see You face to face,

See the cloud of ancient fire
 Guiding through our wilderness.
 Hear the voice of God our Father.
 Hear the love His words express:
 This my Son is pure and pleasing.
 Hear the blessing that He brings!
 This my Son is pure and pleasing.
 Hear the blessing that He brings!

O WONDROUS SIGHT O VISION FAIR

Tune: I Asked the LORD that I Might Grow

O wondrous sight! O vision fair
 of glory that the church shall share,
 which Christ upon the mountain shows,
 where brighter than the sun he glows!

From age to age the tale declares
 how with the three disciples there
 where Moses and Elijah meet,
 the Lord holds converse high and sweet.

The law and prophets there have place,
 two chosen witnesses of grace;
 the Father's voice from out the cloud
 proclaims his only Son aloud.

With shining face and bright array,
 Christ deigns to manifest that day
 what glory shall be theirs above
 who joy in God with perfect love.

And faithful hearts are raised on high
 by this great vision's mystery;
 for which in joyful strains we raise
 the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.