

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

19-23 Dec 2011

LESSON 12 – GOD’S SERVANT TRANSFIGURED

INTRODUCTION

Why would many of the Greek Romans have had a hard time believing in the supernatural? People today?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: *Jesus is now beginning his journey southward toward Jerusalem. “The unnamed location was probably a southern ridge of Mount Hermon (9,200 feet) about 12 miles northeast of Caesarea Philippi. The “high mountain” was an appropriate site in view of God’s previous self-disclosure to Moses and Elijah on Mount Sinai¹” The transfiguration story defies our modern sense of scientific truth. The word “transfiguration” means a complete and remarkable change, “not merely outward, but a substantial inward change as well. Rom 2:2, 2 Cor 3:18 The modern English version could be “metamorphosis.” Seeing Jesus like this should have confirmed who He was. Moses and Elijah are commonly thought to represent the law and the prophets, a common title for the Old Testament scriptures. A cloud usually represented God. The disciples understood the concept of future resurrection but not a modern death and resurrection. They wouldn’t completely understand messiahship until they had experienced Christ’s death and resurrection. The cross is the theme of heaven’s conversations and heaven’s praise. Rev 5 Many people say that Mark 9:7 is a main theme of Mark’s gospel.*

Read Mark 9:2-4

1. Who got to go high on the mountain with Jesus? Why them? (Mk 5:37-43)
2. Who appeared? Why them? What did they talk about? (Luke 9:30,31)

Read Mark 9:5-13

3. What was the disciples' reaction to the encounter? 2 Pet 1:17-18
4. Peter still doesn’t seem to get it. What title did he give Jesus? (5) How did he want to make Jesus’ booth (tent) different than that of Elijah or Moses?
5. How does God’s endorsement (7; Mk 1:11) make Him different? Why couldn't they see God face to face?
6. Why was Jesus’ teaching about His death so shocking to the disciples? (9)
7. What time limit does Jesus give on the command to the three? (9) Why?

Note: Some people think that John the Baptist fulfilled the prophecy of Mal 3:1; Lk 1:17 (and Christ’s First Advent) and that Elijah (Mal 4:5-6) himself will appear before Jesus Second Coming. (vv 12-13).

8. Why was the transfiguration important to Jesus? To the disciples? To you?

APPLICATION

On the line below, put a mark to show when you had your first mountaintop experience with God.

Birth _____ Now

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face.”

1 Cor 13:11-12

¹ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-). *The Bible knowledge Commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (Mk 9:2–4). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.