

The Transfiguration (Mark 9:2-13)

- Late afternoon, Jesus led the inner circle of his disciples (Peter, James & John) up higher elevations of Mt. Hermon to pray (Luke 9:28)
- Why this long climb with his 3 most intimate disciples to this dramatic setting?
- They needed encouragement after he had confronted them with His death.
- Jesus' suffering & death was totally contrary to their concept of a victorious Messiah
- It was naturally confusing & depressing. And with what was coming the Lord knew that it needed to be balanced with some positive realities.

I. Encouragement on the Mount (vs. 2-8)

- Mark: "Jesus took the disciples up the mount & was transfigured before them." (v.2)
- Luke adds that they went up to pray, & continued like that the evening (Luke 9:28)
- Luke further tells us that they became weary, they grew sleepy (Luke 9:32)
- We don't know who woke first, but they awoke to Jesus being transfigured (2,3)
- Matthew records that Jesus' face shone as bright as the sun (Matt 17:2)
- The glory which was always in the depth of his being, that one time was disclosed
- It was a glance back to His pre human glory & a look forward to His future glory
- Peter, James & John were to hold on to this in what lay ahead facing the cross
- The cross momentarily eclipsed their vision. John describes it (1:14)
- As they watched spell bound, they were given something else to embrace (9:4)
- Why Elijah & Moses? 1st both these men had spoken with God on mountain tops
- 2nd these both had been shown the glory of God, both also had famous departures
- Together they were an ultimate summary of the Old Testament economy
- What were they talking about? Luke 9:31 specifies, Jesus' departure – the cross
- Peter's confession of Christ as the Messiah (8:29) was confirmed by Moses & Elijah
- He fulfilled what the sacrificial system pointed to & every prophecy Israel's history
- Peter always found something to say when nothing was to be said – note 9:5
- This was not only a declaration about Christ, but what was to come at his return
- In future, in death they would meet the future risen Christ in the clouds 1 Thess 4:17
- Then in silence the voice came from the cloud "this is my Son: listen to Him" (7b)
- 'Listen to Him' was the command: Law & prophets were only partial expressions
- Here is the final expression, "listen to Him" see Hebrews 1: 1-2