

The Need of Daily Meeting with Christ

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Series: Mark (Introducing Jesus)

Introduction: Open your Bible to **Mark 9:1-13**. The title of this morning's message is "Meeting with Christ". We come to one of the most amazing accounts in the life of Christ—His transfiguration.

The closest thing that any one of us will come to the transfiguration of Christ is revival in our private prayer times with God. We will not see Christ in His physical glory until He comes, but we can see Christ's glory in our hearts. We need to see the glory of Christ. We have a desperate need for it.

Peter, James, and John saw the glory of Christ in a way no human being has seen it on earth. It affected them and gave them courage for the rest of their lives. Peter said in **2 Peter 1:16**, "we were eyewitnesses of His majesty". John said, "we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father" (**John 1:14**).

The disciples were shaped by the transfiguration. Have you been shaped by the presence and glory of Christ in your life? We need our lives to be shaped by our walk with God! Are you walking close to Him? We find that the disciples lives and ministry were shaped by this experience with the Lord—they were shaped by the majesty of Christ, the mission of Christ, and the Word of the Father.

- Is the **Glory** of Christ real in your life?
- Is the **Fear** of Christ renewed in your life?
- Is the **Word** of Christ revered in your life?
- Does the **Presence** of Christ remain in your life?

I. **Is the Glory of Christ real in your life?** This group of three disciples is led up to a private place—a mountain top by themselves with Jesus to see the glory of Christ unveiled before them.

Verse 2, "And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them". Christ is transfigured before these three disciples. This experience gave them courage to accept what Christ was telling them about His death. We need that same courage today!

A. We need to experience the glory of Christ in our private time with Christ because of the great **crosses** and difficulties we have to bear. Does life seem hard to you? Sometimes it is impossible! Sometimes circumstances are more than we can handle. We know in our minds that Christ is God and He's in control of our lives. We are just like the disciples.

1. ***Peter struggled with knowing Christ would suffer:*** The disciples know that Jesus is the Christ. What they are blown away about is that He has to suffer and die. Peter especially struggled with this.

Look back at **Matthew 16:15**, we read that Jesus said to His disciples, “who do you say that I am?” **16** Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

The disciples knew about the glory of Christ. They expected Jesus to conquer Rome. What they did not expect was the Cross of Christ. But then Jesus revealed to His disciples that He would suffer. Look down a few verses in **Matthew 16:21-22**, “From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.””

2. ***They probably needed time to absorb it all!*** Then of course the Lord began to rebuke Peter. What a shock! Christ would suffer! This can’t be! We find something very interesting back in **Mark 8:2**, “And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.” This statement of “six days” is recorded in all three synoptic Gospels, but no events are recorded during this time. I believe the disciples needed time to absorb what was happening.

Peter specifically had just been informed for the first time that Jesus Christ would suffer death by crucifixion. This was major, and all three synoptic Gospels record that there was a period of “six days” before the next major event takes place. No one records what happened during these six days, but it is possible that they were absorbing the shocking news that the Lord of Glory would be crucified. Those who were Christ’s apostles were weak and perhaps needed time to absorb this. The apostles were no different than us. They were only human beings.

3. ***Even after seeing so many miracles, they were still weak and needed assurance from Christ.*** We need that same assurance. Peter, James and John were Jesus’ first disciples. They were there for the raising of Jairus’ daughter, and later on, they are with Jesus before Gethsemane.
4. ***We are ordinary believers no different than Peter, James, and John.*** What we see is you don’t have to be anyone special to meet with God in an amazing, powerful and unforgettable way. This shaped Peter. Peter would one day give his life by being crucified upside down.

B. As we **faithfully follow** Christ and meet with Him, we will experience the **glory of Christ**. It will not be in the same way that these disciples experienced, but the New Testament teaches us this. **James 4:8**, “Draw near to God, and he

will draw near to you.” We read in **Malachi 3:7**, “Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.”

1. **David’s faithfulness.** Are you drawing near to God in your life? Are you taking time to meet with Him on a daily basis? It’s likely David wrote the 119th Psalm. If so, it was he who said in **Psalm 119:17**, “Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice” (NKJV).
2. **Consider the disciples experiences.** They had left all and followed Christ. There was a great burden they needed to carry—the knowledge that Jesus Christ would suffer and die. Christ would revive them and empower them through a surprise experience they would have with Him.

They went to PRAY. Now, **Luke 9:28** says they “went up the mountain to pray”. They did this often, but today something unusual would happen. We read in **Mark 8:2-3** that Jesus was “transfigured before them 3 and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.” “. What a surprise. They had gone there The word is transfigured is metamorphosis. The veil of Christ’s humanity drops away. The glory of the Second Person of the Trinity is revealed. Luke relays that the purpose for the journey to the mountain was to pray.

Don’t expect God to show up in your life in dramatic ways to bless you, if you do not show up in faithful consistent ways before Him.

- C. When you come into real contact with God, your **focus** isn’t on yourself-it’s on Christ! Verse 3, “and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.” In Revelation 1, again we see Christ in His glory. We read, “His face was like the sun shining in it’s strength”. Revelation 19 tells us at Christ’s Second Coming: “His eyes were like a flame of fire”.

Application: Let me tell you that when you come into real contact with God, your focus isn’t on yourself. One thing you know when you meet with God is you don’t leave talking about yourself. You talk about the glory and kindness of Christ. So much of people’s “experiences” is all about themselves. People come out talking about the emotional experience they had, and the focus is on self.

When we have truly met with God and we are coming from a mountain top experience with God, we don’t feel big, we feel small. And if we feel anything, we feel the greatness and mercy and kindness of God.

As I said, the disciples were shaped by the transfiguration. The only other experience that compares to this is the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

So the first question we asked is....

- I. Is the **Glor**y of Christ real in your life?

Are you faithfully meeting with God? It is only as you draw near to God that He will draw near to you. If you draw near to God your life will be shaped by the majesty of Christ.

We have a second question...

II. **Is the Fear of Christ renewed in your life?** Look at **verse 4**, “And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.”

Seeing the glory of Christ is a **sobering** experience. Peter didn't want to leave. He knew something amazing was happening. Look at **verse 5**, “And Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah. 6 For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified.”

A. **Meeting with God is amazing!** Peter gets it! He knows it's good—he didn't want to leave! But it wasn't just amazing!

B. **Meeting with God was also terrifying!** Truly Peter didn't know what to say—**verse 6**, “For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified.” Sometimes great fear is part of genuinely seeing the glory of Christ. We would all be on our faces before God. When John sees Him again unveiled in His glory the book of Revelation, he says, “I fell down on my face as dead”.

Often times we do not come away touched by God because we are so flippant and casual and familiar. When God shows even a fraction of His glory, God's people are overcome with fear.

Explanation of the Fear of the Lord

The scripture says it is the foolish person “that has no fear before their eyes” (Psalm 14; Romans 3). If we want to know the sweet love of God, we need a fresh movement of the Spirit in our hearts to create a fresh reverence and fear and respect for God. We need to be sobered by the presence of God.

The fear of the Lord is a good thing!

- **Psalm 19:9**, “the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever”
- **Psalm 25:14**, “The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him”
- **Psalm 31:19**, “Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind!”

Fear is the attitude of heart of heart that reverences His Word and presence. I live in deep respect and reverence for all that the Lord. It's the attitude that says I can't afford to be in a wrong relationship with God. It's the attitude that says, “I must take refuge in God”. I know what it's like to be battered by the world, and I want anything but that. Take the world, but don't take away Jesus!

Can you exist for weeks and months in unrepentant anger or bitterness or some unrepentant sin? And you know these things are in your life, but you won't deal with them. You need to get into the presence of God and experience the fear of the Lord.

Explanation: Coming away from this mountain, Peter and James and John were all clear that Christ would need to suffer and die. This was Christ's mission.

Application: Is your life guided by Moses and Elijah testifying about Christ to you? Are you in His Word?

So the first question we asked is....

I. **Is the Glory of Christ real in your life?**
Are you faithfully meeting with God?

II. **Is the Fear of Christ renewed in your life?**

Now we come to a third question.

III. **Is the Word of Christ revered in your life?** Look at **verse 7**, "And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, 'This is my beloved Son; listen to him.'"

A. **God wants us to do everything He says, not just some of it.** We ought to revere all that Christ tells us. The idea of this is not just listen to what He's saying, but believe it and give yourself to it. God would not have us be hearers of the Word, but doers!

Application: When we begin to backslide and disobey God's word, the power of the Word of Christ in our life is reduced. Do you remember a time when someone took God's Word and pointed something out to you, you'd stop and you'd do it! But now you know the Word of God, and you know there are things that are not right in your life, and you are indifferent.

The first thing that occurs when you get right with God in a mountaintop experience, is you get rid of the lukewarm attitude.

B. **God wants us to take His Word as authoritative for every part of our life.** Look at **verse 4**, "And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus." Now check this out: The first thing we notice in these verses are two very recognizable figures:

- **Moses**, who represents the LAW, and
- **Elijah** the greatest PROPHET of the Old Testament. So we have the two most recognizable representatives of the Law and the Prophets.

They have come to bear witness of Christ's suffering. They explain to Peter, James, and John about the mission of Christ. We get this idea even more clearly from Luke's account in **Luke 9:30-31**, "And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and

Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.” The word “departure” is the Greek word for “exodus”.

1. This was a difficult thing for the apostles to hear! But the Word of God was presented to them to CHANGE their opinion. They were testifying with Jesus before the disciples that Jesus Christ would suffer and die at Jerusalem. This was the mission of Christ from the beginning. All the Scriptures speak of Jesus Christ and they are authoritative over our lives.
2. The Scriptures are the Word of Christ and they speak of Christ. They ought to have authority over our lives.
 - Jesus said the Jewish leaders in **John 5:39**, “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me”
 - Remember the disciples on the Road to Emmaus? Jesus Himself reveals Himself in the Law and Prophets. Look at **Luke 24:27**, “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”

Are you in the Word of God? Are you looking for Christ there? You will draw near to God as you sincerely take in His Word.

Application: Now we do not have Moses and Elijah to come to bear testimony to the Gospel of Christ, but we do have the Word of God.

3. Does the Word of God have power in your life to change your opinions? Can you say, you know I used to believe it was ok for me not to take leadership in the home, or I didn't know how to raise my children or glorify God in the work place, but the Word of God has told me just what I should do and how I should think about things.
4. Does the Word of God change your behavior? Has it changed your home? The world is busy getting their divorces, living for themselves, but you know God's Word has authority over you. The world is busy on this Lord's Day, but you are going to order your life according to the Word of God!

I. Is the **Glory** of Christ real in your life?

Are you faithfully meeting with God?

II. Is the **Fear** of Christ renewed in your life?

III. Is the **Word** of Christ revered in your life.

Transition: Here is a final question.

IV. Does the **Presence** of Christ remain in your life? Look at verse 8, “And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. 9 And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead”.

Though the glory of Christ is veiled once again by His human flesh and the prophets disappear, they go back into the world with Jesus alone.

Mountaintop experiences are meant to encourage us. But we cannot live on the mountain top. We need to be encouraged to live in the discipline of the Word of God in our day to day activities.

We need to meet with God each day whether the emotion is there or not. We walk by faith not by sight. There are times when God gives us mountain top experiences. We ought to lean on those when we are discouraged and know that God has met with us. But often there are times when we are in the valley. He’s still with us in the valley. He will never leave us nor forsake us.

Our faith is not founded on emotion but on the never failing Word of Christ. Does the presence of Christ sustain you each day? Does He comfort you wherever you are?

Conclusion: Peter and John never forgot the mountain top with Christ. Peter said, “We are eye witnesses of His majesty” John said, “We saw his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father”.

If you are a believer you’ve been to the mountaintop. The first time I had a mountain top experience was the night I was saved.

The glory of Christ became central in my life.
The fear of Christ began to rule my life.
The Word of Christ began to guide my life
The Presence of Christ began to comfort me in my life.

I have had many revivals in my prayer life. But life goes on after the mountain top. There was joy on the mountaintop but there is a need down in the valley. We cannot live on the mountaintop, we must climb the mountain and experience intimate fellowship with God, then we must take what we have gained on the mountaintop back down into the valley.

You need to consistently meet with Christ, because there is a cross to bear, and you need to remember His presence on the mountain top when you are in the valley.