

INTRO

- Do you enjoy hiking? Describe the feeling of making your way to the top of a mountain.
- Describe a time when you encountered God's presence in a very tangible way.

READ

Mark 9:2-29

REFLECT**GLORY ON THE MOUNTAIN (Mark 9:2-13)**

In the transfiguration, it is a significant and rare moment where we see Jesus' divinity revealed. Moses and Elijah represent the Law & the Prophets. The significance is that we see Jesus is superior to Moses and Elijah, thereby fulfilling the Law and Prophets and surpassing them. Jesus is the ultimate prophet and leader sent by God.

Qu: why is it important for the 3 disciples to witness this moment?

Also, we hear God the father authenticate Jesus' identity once again: "This is my beloved Son; listen to Him." (v7)

Qu: what does it mean to "listen to Him"? How are we to listen to Jesus?

Qu: how often are you reading and listening to God's word?

FAITH IN THE VALLEY (Mark 9:14-29)

Immediately as they come off the mountain, Jesus is confronted with the reality of the work of sin and Satan. The child being demonically possessed and oppressed is a vivid picture and reminder of the nature of evil: to dehumanize and destroy God's image-bearers.

Qu: what is the underlying problem that Jesus exposes? (hint: read v19)

We learn at least 3 things about faith in this account:

1. Faith trusts the ability of God even in the face of impossibility
2. Faith is not perfect; exercise it anyway
3. Faith grows through dependence on God

Qu: Jesus connects faith and prayer. Why?

Prayer is an act of dependence, perhaps even weakness. It is a picture of the upside-down nature of God's kingdom—power and authority over evil comes through our weakness and dependence on Jesus. In our weakness, he is strong.

Qu: what do these 2 contrasting events teach you and show you about Jesus and his mission?

These are 2 very contrasting events. From glory to mess. It is also a reminder that Jesus left his glory of heaven and came down to our mess. His death and resurrection brought the ultimate judgement against sin & Satan and now offers us to pass from death to life, bondage to freedom, from being dehumanized to dignity as God's image bearers.

As we follow Jesus, we will move from mountaintop moments of glory to times of being in the valley. We must trust his presence in the valley too. We are to bring his glory, power and kingdom to bear on the mess of individual lives, communities, our city, and even the nations of the world.

RESPOND

- What encouraged and challenged you the most out of today's discussion?
- How can you practically apply what you're learning to your personal life?

PRAY