

## **Mark 9:2-13 – Real Christianity Confirmed**

Gill, TSK, GreekLexicon, Handfuls, Rienecker, Henry, Robertson, Clarke, Wallace, JFB, Trapp, Vincent, Barnes, Calvin, Eclectic?

Beloved in the Lord Jesus: The last time you instructed from God's Word about what real Christianity is. You were then encouraged to pursue real Christianity and you were warned not to ignore real Christianity. **But the Lord wasn't done when he instructed, encouraged, and warned Christians to pursue true Christianity.** He also **wanted to confirm the truthfulness of Christianity.** And he did so in a most remarkable way. This is what you will hear about today.

Our headings are:

**The Shining men**

**The Strong voice**

**The Stern warning.**

Our goals are: **That you will be encouraged to pursue real Christianity, knowing that this faith is beyond doubt.**

### **The Shining Men**

2 Now after six days Jesus took **Peter, James, and John**, and **led them up on a high mountain** apart by themselves; and He **was transfigured** ( 变像 ). before them.

#### **1. Jesus traveled to a high mountain.**

High mountains, symbolize great blessings and a closeness to God. Jesus often went up the mountains to pray to this Father. (We speak of "mountain top" experiences.) Wasn't it on Mt. Moriah that God provided Abraham a sacrifice in place of Isaac? Wasn't it on Mt. Sinai that God gave the law? Wasn't it from Mt. Pisgah that Moses saw the Promised Land? Wasn't it on Mt. Carmel that God sent fire to consume Elijah's offering and destroy the prophets of Baal? Wasn't it on Mt. Zion that the temple was built? And wasn't it on Mt. Calvary, (Golgotha) probably Moriah, that Jesus died to bridge the gap between God and man and bring blessings?

#### **2. Jesus took 3 witnesses, Peter, James, and John, with him to this high mountain to confirm the truthfulness of Christianity.**

These 3 appeared later when Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane and about to go to the cross. These 3 could see his sweat that were like drops of blood **and told others later.**

Matthew 26:37 And He took with Him **Peter and the two sons of Zebedee**, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.

**3. On top of that mountain Jesus was transfigured.**

The word “transfigured” is “metamorphoso.” We get metamorphosis from it.

3 His **clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow**, such as **no launderer on earth can whiten them.**

**4. The transfiguration was a remarkable scene.**

Jesus clothes shone and were very, very white. It was white as snow. It was so white that no professional washer could make it whiter. This showed, of course, the purity of Christ, the one who would be the sacrifice for the church.

4 And **Elijah** appeared to them with **Moses**, and they **were talking with Jesus.**

**5. Then Elijah and Moses appeared in their glorious nature and had a conversation with Jesus.**

**a. How would the disciples have known that these 2 men were Elijah and Moses?** By their conversation they would know.

**b. Why did these 2 appear?** Both Moses and Elijah had interesting end-of-life experiences. No one ever found Moses’ body and Elijah did not die but was snatched up to heaven in a chariot. Further, and more importantly, these 2 came as witnesses of the work of Jesus. They came to confirm the words of Jesus.

**c. What did the 3 talk about?** Did they talk about how the people were stubborn? Not really. Their conversation was about Christ’s redemptive work – the foundation of Christianity.

Luke 9:30 And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and **spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.**

This was a confirmation of Luke 24, where Jesus said that the Law, the Psalms, and the prophets all spoke of him. The prophets always

had the redemptive work of Jesus at the back of their prophecies.

5 Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "**Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles**: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" —

**6. Peter then asked if they could make 3 tents for the 3 men: Moses, Elijah, and Jesus.**

They knew the blessings of being near Jesus and the saints of God.

**Psalms 16:11** You will show me the path of life; **In Your presence is fullness of joy**; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**7. But was anything wrong with Peter's response?**

Yes. It was good to be near to Jesus, but **a good thing could be a bad thing if it stops you from doing a necessary thing!**

**a. Peter desired to be with Jesus, but there were others who badly needed to hear the Gospel, and the disciples who were down in the valley needed help, badly needed help.** Their training was not over yet. You will see this later.

**Mark 9:14** - And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them.

**b. Moses and Elijah did not need human shelter - tabernacles.** They were already safe. They were in the arms of the heavenly Father. **The dead in Christ have no regrets. There is no one in heaven who would prefer to come and live in this world.**

6 because **he did not know what to say**, for they were greatly afraid.

**8. Peter asked this because he did not know what to say.**

The disciples were confounded with fear – seeing so great a sight.

**Exodus 34:30** So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.

## 9. Lessons:

**a. The transfiguration was a foretaste of your resurrection at the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus.** This must confirm your hope in the resurrection. Annihilation is a lie. Elijah and Moses have eternal life with renewed and glorified bodies. So will you!

**b. Notice how Jesus allowed Peter to talk to him and he listened – even while he was involved with heavenly conversations.** Yes, Peter's question was not remarkable, but the Lord was gracious and listened.

**c. Don't be so obsessed with your own benefits that you forget the needs of others.** Do not choose private communion over public usefulness. (Henry) Look for the visitor who comes to church, even though it is nice to spend time with others you know. Don't be involved in too many religious activities and forget your own family.

**d. The death of the Lord Jesus for your sins is the center of the Gospel.** Don't let anyone else tell you otherwise.

### **The Strong Voice**

7 And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is **My beloved Son. Hear Him!**"

**1. From the cloud came a voice loud enough for the 3 witnesses to hear, the voice of the Father who wanted to speak of his Son.**

**John 8:18** "I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the **Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.**"

Jesus, Elijah, and Moses spoke, but now the Father himself spoke.

**2. The voice of the Father said: "This is my beloved Son. Hear him!"**

The Lord Jesus was the **only Son of his Father.** There is none else. You are adopted sons.

The Lord Jesus was a beloved Son. Giving up a beloved Son was surely a great act of love.

**Isaiah 42:1** "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, **My Elect One in whom My soul delights!** I have put My Spirit upon Him; **He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.**

The Lord Jesus pleased the father. (Matthew) He was the only one fit to die for the sins of the world and mediate peace with him.

2 Peter 1:17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "**This is My beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

So listen to Jesus.

Deuteronomy 18:18 'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, **and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.**

8 Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus with themselves.

**3. After the Father spoke Moses and Elijah left and Jesus was alone with his 3 witnesses.**

#### **4. Lessons:**

**a. God's Spirit is speaking through his Word today: Jesus is the Son of God, and only through him you can have life.** Are you listening? There is none other. He is the source of ultimate truth. And multiple witnesses that came from God himself testified that he is the Son of God.

**b. With the knowledge that Jesus is the Son of God, are you telling others?**

#### **The Stern Warning**

9 Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that **they should tell no one the things** they had seen, **till the Son of Man had risen from the dead.**

**1. Jesus gave his disciples a stern warning not to speak about what they saw on the mountain.**

What they saw was confirmation of truth...and confirmation of Christianity, but they had to keep it quiet for the time being.

10 So they kept this word to themselves, **questioning what the rising from the dead meant.**

**2. Why did Jesus want them to be silent for the time being?**

Jesus wanted them to wait because **he did not want the distraction of people constantly coming to him to ask for signs.** He had to **complete his training of the men to preach.** The disciples would testify later and confirm his death, burial, and resurrection.

**3. And yet, the disciples just did not fully understand what he was saying concerning his death.**

They thought that Christ's "rising from the dead" was a figurative expression, meaning that he would be raised up from his low position (like dead) to a position of dignity and dominion. The literal death of Jesus was not on their radar because they were so focused on an earthly kingdom and their hope for prominent positions.

11 And they asked Him, saying, "**Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?**"

**4. The disciples then asked Jesus: "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"**

What they meant was this: **We believe that you are the Christ, but since you are Christ, how come Elijah has not come yet, after all, the Scribes taught us that Elijah would come in person before Messiah?**

12 Then He answered and told them, "Indeed, **Elijah is coming first and restores all things.** And how is it written concerning the Son of Man, that **He must suffer many things and be treated with contempt?** 13 "But I say to you that **Elijah has also come,** and **they did to him whatever they wished,** as it is written of him."

**5. The answer was simple: The Bible taught that Elijah would come in spirit.**

The disciples' minds were stuck on their craving for an earthly, carnal kingdom. But hear what the angel said to Zechariah: **Luke 1:17** "He will also go before **Him in the spirit and power of Elijah,** 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Further, Jesus said that **Elijah, whose job was to prepare the way,**

**for the Messiah, had already come and had done his work.**

**John 1:29** The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

John the Baptist came in the spirit of Elijah. He was out in the desert. He wore camel's hair clothing. He lived like Elijah. He preached without fear, confronting sin, as Elijah. He was killed, just like Jezebel tried to do to Elijah. We can surely say that John the Baptist was in the spirit of Elijah.

#### **6. Lessons:**

**a. It is true that the disciples had to refrain from speaking about Christ's Messiahship for a time, but that time is now passed. Are you preaching the Gospel and supporting the preaching of the Gospel?** You have no reason to hide the Gospel? Do your friends know about Jesus or is he a secret Savior?

**b. In the building of Christ's kingdom, like John the Baptist, there is no room for ego, of self.** You must not be in it for what you can get. You are in the kingdom to serve the Lord and his people. When you do something good, give Christ the credit for using you. It is he who works in you both to will and to do good works.

#### **Conclusion**

Moses and Elijah joined with Jesus and testified to Peter, James, and John that Jesus was the Messiah who came to die for the sins of the world. Then the Father directly confirmed this from heaven to the 3 men. So the 3 men had 3 confirmations about Jesus. Later, they took that message to the world. Brothers and Sisters in Jesus:

**1. There is no one else in Christianity or any other religion, except for Jesus, who can propitiate God's anger against you.** Jesus came in human flesh and offered himself as a bloody sacrifice to the Father for you. People may come up with many schemes to save themselves but none will do the job. Those who rely on these schemes for salvation will go to hell. Those who rely on Jesus will be saved.

**2. This fact was confirmed and reconfirmed many, many, many times.**

**3. Don't hide this truth from those around you!** Read it...Hear it...when the Holy Spirit reminds you of it...don't rest, tell it to others.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, know that Jesus is the only way to satisfy God's anger against you! If you don't want God's anger, ask him to show his love to you and to count Jesus life and death as yours.