



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 24

THE TRANSFIGURATION

The glory of God is revealed in Jesus.



MONDAY

THE STORY: MARK 9:1-4

Jesus revealed His glory. Jesus took Peter, James, and John up on a high mountain. These three men were brought there to witness the glory of God in Christ. Luke tells us that as the Lord prayed (Luke 9:29), the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes began to radiate in glorious splendor. By revealing His glory, Jesus demonstrated that He could, with the glories of heaven, show His power at any moment. This confirms that Jesus went to the cross freely and willingly, as a lamb led to the slaughter. Elijah and Moses appeared with Jesus, representing the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. The disciples seemed to immediately recognize them even though they had never seen these men before.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does the transfiguration tell us about Jesus? (Though Jesus became a man and put aside His glory, He never lost His glory.)

Why did Jesus put aside His glory and become a man like you and me? (Paul tells us in Philippians 2 that Jesus humbled Himself by taking on human flesh so that he could die in our place. To put it simply, Jesus became a man to die and take the punishment we deserved.)

Will we ever see Jesus in all His glory? (Yes. When we go to heaven we will be with Him. When He returns, He will come in all his glory and might. There will never be night again, and no lights will be needed because all of heaven will stay lit with the glory of Jesus [see Revelation 21:23].)

PRAY:

Thank the Lord for laying aside His glory that He might die as a man in human flesh in our place.



TUESDAY

THE STORY: MARK 9:5-8

The father affirmed His son. The disciples were very frightened. Peter suggested that three shelters, or memorials, be built. While he was still speaking, Matthew records that a cloud came down and covered them (Matthew 17:5). Out from the cloud, interrupting Peter, came the voice of the Father to settle the matter. Three shelters would not be necessary, because they were to listen to the Son. When the cloud left, Moses and Elijah were gone, and only Jesus remained.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why were the disciples afraid? (They heard the voice of God. Any exposure to God, whether it be to His voice or a portion of His glory, is a fearful thing for any man.)

Should we be afraid of God? (Yes. All Christians should have a respectful fear of God, much like a person has a respectful fear of a police officer. Those who are not believers should also fear God's judgment.)

PRAY:

Ask God to give us a respectful fear that will help us to obey His law.



WEDNESDAY WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

THE STORY: MARK 9:9,10

Here, in a moment of time, three of the disciples had the opportunity to get a glimpse of the holiness, glory, and power of Jesus as God. They knew Jesus, the ordinary man. But they didn't know Jesus, the Son, in glory. If Jesus was not both fully God and fully man, He could not have taken our punishment on the cross and then risen from the dead. Jesus was resolute. He would take that penalty. He would die. And, praise the Lord, He would also rise from the dead.

After the Transfiguration, Jesus gave His disciples strict orders not to tell anyone about what they had seen until Jesus had risen from the dead. They could not understand all that had been revealed to them at that time. They didn't understand what Jesus meant by being raised from the dead or even what His transfiguration revealed. Later they would come to more fully understand that God the Son, Jesus, had come down to earth to take on human flesh that He might die for the sins of man.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What instructions did Jesus give the three disciples on the way down the mountain? (Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Resurrection.)

Why didn't Jesus want them to tell anyone? (The text does not tell us, but given their confusion and resulting speculation, it is likely everyone would be confused. Also, if the people heard of the Lord's glory, they would likely have wanted to make Him king all the more.)

PRAY:

Thank Jesus again for His sacrifice. We must never tire of thanking Him for His death on the cross.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: MARK 9:9-13

Jesus answered His disciples. Imagine being the disciples. What would you say? They tried to make sense of everything they had seen and heard, but they didn't understand. Jesus explained that the Elijah who was to come had already come. Jesus had already mentioned that to them before (Mathew 11:9-13). Though they didn't understand at the time, they would one day know exactly who Elijah was, why Jesus would need to suffer, and what Jesus meant when He said He would rise from the dead.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Did the disciples understand what had just happened? (No. The disciples didn't understand much of what was taking place.)

Why didn't they understand? (We can sometimes forget just what a crazy experience the whole thing was for them. They had never seen or heard of a transfiguration. They didn't know about people rising from the dead. And they had certainly never seen two men of God from ages past appear at the top of a mountain.)

PRAY:

Thank God for His plan of salvation through His Son Jesus.



FRIDAY
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

THE STORY: PSALM 72:11-13

Jesus is the one to which all kings will bow. Paul tells us that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow (Philippians 2:10). This includes all the kings of the earth from all time. Revelation 17:14 tells us that the Lamb of God, Jesus, is the King of Kings.

TALK ABOUT IT:

When will all the kings of the earth from all time bow to the throne of Jesus? (In the last judgment, all men will know that Jesus is Lord. Those who rejected Him will be sent to eternal punishment, but they will all know that Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. They will all bow before His authority at that time.)

Why are we blessed to know the kingship of Jesus while we are yet alive? (No one needs to force us to worship at the throne of Jesus. We can pledge our lives to Him right now and call out to Him to save us from our sin.)

PRAY:

Give praise to the Lord Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, through prayer.