



Mark Sermon Series
To Be Used: Session 7: Commands
Potential Sermon Title: On the Mountain
Passage: Mark 9:2-8

Connection to Mark 8:27–9:50

Belief in Jesus is essential in all areas of life. By enabling disciples to see Jesus as the Son of God for themselves, they can place their complete trust in Christ.

Introduction/Opening

Some folks like to climb the great mountains of the world. Others enjoy taking hikes through less stressful mountain trails so they can enjoy the unique scenery and experience the wonders of nature. Still others favor driving around mountains on winding roads so they can take in the splendor of a breathtaking portion of God's creation.

Peter, James, and John followed Jesus up a mountain, but not to enjoy the scenery. Jesus led them there to underscore their confession that He was the Messiah (8:29). On the mountain, they had a powerful encounter with Him.

We will trace Mark's account of their experience on the mountain. As we follow in their footsteps, perhaps we can encounter Jesus in a fresh way ourselves.

Outline

1. Affirmed by God's glory (2-3)
 - a) The disciples (2)

Why did Jesus choose Peter, James, and John to go with Him on the mountain? His choice had to do with their leadership in the band of disciples. Jesus expects disciples who have been influenced by His presence to have an influence on others.
 - b) The transfiguration (2-3)

The disciples beheld Jesus gleaming with God's glory. Every part of Him—His body as well as His clothing—reflected the presence of the Father in His life. The glory of God shining from Jesus affirms His identity as the Son of God.
2. Affirmed by God's Word (4)
 - a) The Law and the Prophets

For God's people then, the Old Testament was divided into two parts: the Law and the Prophets. Moses personified the law, and Elijah personified the prophets. The presence of these two Old Testament patriarchs validated that Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of the Word of God about His Son who would be the Messiah.

b) Their conversation with Jesus

As the disciples gazed upon the scene before them, they witnessed the conversation that Moses and Elijah carried on with Jesus. Obviously, both patriarchs knew Jesus well. Their conversation affirms their recognition of Him as the fulfillment of God's promise to send His Messiah.

3. Affirmed by God's voice (5-7)

a) The need to listen (5-6)

Simon Peter didn't know what to do, so he started talking about building shrines to each of the three figures standing before Him. His eagerness to build three shrines indicated that the message of the scene had been lost on him. He failed to grasp the truth about the supremacy of Christ.

b) The call to listen (7)

While Peter kept on talking, he didn't notice the cloud that had formed above him. But the cloud got his attention when the voice from the cloud shouted at him to listen to Jesus. Notice the exclamation point in the verse. It reminds us that God intends for us to listen to Him regarding His Son, Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

Finally, Peter stopped talking, and James and John joined him in looking around them. That's when they saw nobody else but Jesus (v. 8). Seeing Jesus alone would make a difference to them in the days ahead leading up to the cross. Fixing your gaze on no one but Jesus has the same effect on you too. See Christ alone! Give yourself to Him alone!

Argile Smith serves as the pastor of Parkway Baptist Church in Biloxi, Mississippi. A graduate of William Carey College (BA) and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (MDiv, PhD), he has also served as a theological educator and Baptist college administrator. He and his wife, Connie, have three grown sons, three remarkable daughters-in-law, and four fairly perfect grandchildren.