

Yvonne Shelton 2024 Q3, Lesson #7: The Mountain and the Multitude

Tuesday, August 13

Mark 9:1-13 (Matt. 16:28-ch.17:13; Luke 9:27-36)

Mark 9:14-30

Read Mark 9:1-8

Points of interest - **In v.1, Christ alluded to an upcoming demonstration of the power of God. Six days later, it happened: the**

I. Transfiguration of Jesus

A. 3 stages

1. (Luke 9:29) Change in Christ's appearance: "the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening." And in v. 3 of Mark 9, it says that His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer can whiten them."

a. Revelation of His veiled glory. Here's how Ellen White describes it in *The Desire of Ages*, p.241. She says: *His prayer is heard. While He is bowed in lowliness upon the stony ground, suddenly the heavens open, and golden gates of the city of God are thrown wide, and holy radiance descends upon the mount, enshrouding the Savior's form. Divinity from within flashes through humanity, and meets the glory coming from above. Arising from His prostrate position, Christ stands in godlike majesty. The soul agony is gone. His countenance now shines 'as the sun,' and His garments are 'white as snow.'*

b. The transformation happened “as He prayed.” It says, “As He prayed..” Prayer and drawing closer to God can also change our appearance. Both of my sons, Marc and Jason, have different countenances since they accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. I remember how my boys’ eyes looked before they accepted Jesus Christ into their lives. What a difference now! Praise Jesus!

2. Conversation with Moses & Elijah (v.4): In their weariness, the disciples had fallen asleep, but were awakened to see the radiant form of their Master talking with 2 heavenly beings, Moses and Elijah. They were there to encourage Christ in His mission. The subject of their conversation: Christ’s crucifixion in Jerusalem and the scenes of His suffering. He was given the assurance of Heaven’s sympathy. Jesus was reassured that He was the hope of the world, the salvation of every human being who believes in Him. The Father had sent not angels, but men who themselves had known the trials of leading others to God. They had endured suffering and pain. They could identify with the rejection and trials of the Savior in His humanity in a way that angels could not.

3. The Voice from Heaven: In v.5, Peter, as he was known to do, without thinking and because he was afraid, had blurted out 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’— because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid.” And then a cloud overshadowed them, and the voice of God was heard. He said, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him.” Remember, at the baptism of Christ in Matt. 3:17, the

Father had referred to Jesus as His beloved Son “in Whom I am well pleased.” Andrew McClaren, in his commentary, introduced an intriguing concept that points to a far deeper meaning than just the surface. It attests to the uniqueness of the Savior. It indicates a revelation of Jesus's true earthly parentage: conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the virgin Mary. (Matt. 1:18, 20; Luke 1:35). Christ’s uniqueness is also found in the phrase, ‘only begotten Son,’ which is in the bosom of the Father.” (John 1:18). This points to an unbroken communion of love between Him and the Father prior to the crucifixion. It reveals the constancy of a mutual love that in His humanity, there was never anything that separated Him from the Father; between His will and the Father’s; between His heart and the Father’s heart.. Then, The Voice from Heaven says, “Hear Him!” God wants us to hear Jesus’s voice and listen to it. We are to hear Christ’s voice as the voice of God. We are to hear Him say, “Cast your cares upon Me, because I care about you.” We are to hear Him when He tells us of God’s mercy and forgiveness. We are to hear Christ when He warns us through His Holy Spirit that we are heading down the wrong road. We are to hear Him whenever He speaks to us, but we must learn to listen. We must put away all distractions, and hear His voice and trust His Word.

III. From the Mt. to the Valley (v.14-29)

A. Context: Jesus had just had a glorified experience on the mountaintop. But when He and the disciples returned to the foot of the mountain, there was chaos because the disciples below had suffered disappointment and humiliation. A father had brought his son to them for healing. This boy had been tormented by an evil spirit that had caused him to be mute for

years. The spirit had thrown the boy into fire and water to kill him, but had not succeeded in doing so. The disciples had been able to heal diseases and cast out demons in the name of Jesus, but this case was different. They were unable to cast this demon out. They were embarrassed and humiliated in front of the people and the scribes who already had disdain for them and their mission. The boy's father approached Jesus and said, (in v. 17), 'Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.'" Jesus answered him, saying, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Jesus asked the father a few questions, while the evil spirit had thrown the boy down and he was wallowing on the ground and foaming at the mouth. The father, frustrated and in despair for his son, says, "But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

I love how Jesus turned it back on him and said in Mark 9:23: "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." And the father, mustering up whatever faith he has, with tears in his eyes, blurts out, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" Jesus cast out the demon and presented the boy to his father whole and well.

B. Points of Interest

1. The disciples couldn't cast out the demon. Why? Why is it that we don't obtain victory over the evil spirits that tempt us?

a. Their hearts weren't right. Ellen White said on p. 246 in the D.A. that the 9 were jealous of the 3 who were chosen to accompany Jesus up the mountain the night before. In order to have victory over sin, we need to come to the Lord in the right spirit. We need to ask forgiveness of our sins that block our blessings. We should seek cleansing.

b. To succeed in a spiritual conflict, our faith must be strengthened through fervent prayer and fasting (v.29). Some strongholds will not leave unless we pray, fast, and humiliate our hearts before God.

c. Finally, in order to have victory, we need a faith that leads to an unreserved consecration to the work of Christ, and then, "Nothing shall be impossible to us."