



JESUS: The Servant of God

A verse-by-verse study of the Gospel of Mark

The Gospel Glorified

Mark 9:1-13

Message #21

Sermon given on May 10, 2026



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Gospel Glorified

Mark 9:1-13

Opening Comments

- **Happy Mother's Day!**
- Open your Bibles to **Mark 9**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Mark – **JESUS: The Servant of God**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Gospel Glorified**
- The account we are going to look at this morning is found in all three of the synoptic gospels.
- In the last message, Jesus had just told the disciples that to follow Him they had to pick up their cross and follow Him.
- To follow Jesus, He must be your highest affection and greatest desire.
- That is the context of what Luke records. **Luke 14:26-27**
²⁶ If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.
- Jesus doesn't mean that we should literally hate them, but our love and devotion to Christ ought to be so great that our affection and desire for anyone else is much less.
- I love my wife but I love Jesus more.
- She knows that and I know that she loves Jesus more than me.
- One of the ways we show Jesus how much we love Him is by loving each other the way His Word tells us to.
- Chapter nine begins with a verse that could have been at the end of chapter eight.
- **Mark 9:1**
- Some of them were going to witness the mighty power of God.
- That happens six days later.
- **Mark 9:2-3**
- We don't normally see a prophecy fulfilled so quickly in the Bible.

- Jesus predicted this event in verse one and six days later it happens.
- We get the metamorphosis from the Greek word for transformed.
- The common meaning of this to be changed in appearance but it can also mean to transform the essential nature of something.
- Luke's gospel says that it was a change of appearance.
- Paul uses the same word to describe what God's goal is in each of our lives. **Romans 12:2**

² **And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

- God loves you exactly the way you are.
 - But the best you is the you that is like Jesus.
 - To become the best you, you need to be changed, transformed.
 - Suddenly, Jesus is not alone.
 - **Mark 9:4-6**
 - There are some remarkable things about these verses.
 - First, Peter immediately knows he is seeing Moses and Elijah.
 - It doesn't tell us how he knew who they were.
 - Second, the fact that Moses and Elijah are standing there is confirmation of eternal life.
 - Third, they symbolize the two paths to eternal life.
 - Moses died and was buried.
 - Elijah symbolizes the hope of every believer alive today. **2 Kings 2:11**
- ¹¹ **Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire *appeared* with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.**
- Elijah symbolizes the blessed hope of the rapture of all true believers just before God pours out His righteous wrath on this wicked, God-hating, Christ-rejecting world.
 - Fourth, Moses and Elijah represent the two major parts of the Old Testament; Moses represents the Law, and Elijah represents the prophets.
 - Some suggest that Moses and Elijah are the two witnesses in Revelation 11:3.
 - Maybe, but I am not convinced of that.
 - Luke's gospel tells us what Jesus was talking about with Moses and Elijah. **Luke 9:30-31**

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.

- The word decease is ἔξοδος (*exodos*) and literally means departure.
- I would love to have been with Peter, James, and John and listened in on that conversation.
- They didn't know what to say, so, Peter, not one to let a moment slip by saying the first thing that popped into his head.
- A voice from heaven interrupts him.
- **Mark 9:7**
- God tells them to spend less time talking and more time listening to Jesus.
- That is good advice.
- The voice refers to Jesus as "My beloved Son."
- This phrase appears eight times in the Bible; three times in the three accounts of the Transfiguration, three times in the three accounts of the baptism of Christ, when God spoke from heaven, once when Peter referred to the baptism of Christ, and once in a parable that Jesus told in Luke 20 that taught why God sent His Son.
- All eight are God, the Father in heaven, speaking of His love for His Son Christ Jesus.
- The word beloved there is a form of agape that suggests it is unique love between God the Father and God the Son.
- Another gospel tells us that Peter, James, and John were so alarmed by the voice coming out of the cloud that they fell on their faces to the ground.
- **Mark 9:8**
- I wonder if they looked around and wondered, did we just dream that?
- **Mark 9:9-10**
- Sometimes I wish I could sit down with the disciples and try to understand what they were thinking about the things Jesus said.
- Jesus tells them not to tell anyone about the Transfiguration until after He has risen from the dead.
- They did what He said but then discussed what Jesus meant by rising from the dead.
- The disciples often grappled with the things Jesus said.

- We have the benefit of having the whole Bible and two thousand years of great men studying and commenting on the Bible.
- They believed Jesus was the Messiah, but they struggled to accept the idea that the Messiah had to suffer and die.
- For their whole lives they had been taught that the Messiah was a king like King David who would save them from their enemies.
- Because they could not conceive of the Messiah dying, they tried to find another explanation to what He meant.
- One of the keys of faith is taking God at His Word.
- When Jesus said He was going to rise from the dead, it meant He was going to die and then on the third day He would rise from the dead.
- There is a battle going on for your life and soul.
- Once you put your faith in Christ, your soul is God's, and your eternal destiny is heaven.
- But the battle for your life continues.
- What kind of life you lead will be determined by your faith. **John 10:10**

¹⁰ **The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.**

- Jesus wants us to have an amazing, faith-filled abundant life.
- The abundant life is a life filled with the presence of God walking in faith and obedience to His Word.
- It might mean material abundance, but not necessarily.
- The devil wants to steal, kill, and destroy everything that would make our life more abundant.
- Most humans prefer a life where things do not change.
- They will gravitate towards things that are comfortable and known.
- Many people are uncomfortable with change and the unknown.
- What do we do when unwelcome change comes into our lives?
- We have to take God at His Word.
- Life is filled with choices.
- How we respond to those choices will determine if we move toward the abundant life or we allow the devil to steal, kill, or destroy something good in our life.
- Here is a very familiar verse that applies. **Proverbs 3:5-6**

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

- It is not uncommon or wrong when someone encourages us to trust God when something uncomfortable or unwanted comes into our lives.
- A couple of Sundays ago, I made an announcement of a change that is coming to our life and the life of this church.
- Kelly and I will be leaving later this year to start a new season in our life.
- We are being challenged to trust in the Lord with all our heart.
- And so are you!
- We are trusting the Lord to bring a shepherd who will love and feed you better than we ever could.
- It seems like God is answering our prayer on that.
- Here is where that verse will come into play for you.
- Whoever God brings will be different than Kelly or me.
- And as I have said many times, different is not necessarily wrong, it is just different.
- When something changes, you must choose to trust in the Lord.
- The first step to doing that is asking God if this thing is from Him.
- Sometimes He makes it clear enough that you are convinced it is His will that this thing happens.
- We are convinced that what we are planning is from the Lord.
- Other times, we are not certain.
- Then, we examine it to determine if it is illegal, unethical, immoral, or unbiblical.
- If it isn't any of those things, we choose to believe it is His will and move forward, continually asking for confirmation from the Lord.
- There is a warning in that proverb; lean not on your own understanding.
- Some of you might be wondering what you should do with the knowledge that we are leaving.
- I hope you will love us and encourage us as we prepare to go.
- And if God called you to make this church your home, then don't leave your home until He tells you to.

- God may have used Kelly and me to help you feel at home here, but then He used everyone else in this church to make you feel like part of a family.
 - Don't abandon your church family just because we are leaving.
 - That proverb goes on to say, "in all your ways acknowledge Him..."
 - Every time thoughts of what is going on come to mind, remind yourself that this is God's will, and then choose to trust Him even when you don't understand.
 - The proverb ends with a promise, "He shall direct your paths."
 - Jesus promised an abundant life to those who choose to trust in the Lord.
 - Trust the Lord and He will get you to the abundant life.
 - Our text for today closes with the disciples asking Jesus a question.
 - **Mark 9:11-13**
 - This question is based on the second to last verse of the Old Testament. **Malachi 4:5**
- ⁵**Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.**
- Jesus said Elijah has come, and in Matthew's gospel says that John the Baptist was the fulfillment of that prophecy.
 - Peter, James, and John witnessed the glory of Jesus Christ.
 - It is unlikely that any of us will experience that until we stand in His presence.
 - But we do get a taste of His glory as we choose to walk in the abundant life He promised us.
 - And to do that we must choose to trust God, lean not on our understanding, and acknowledge Him in everything.
 - **Pray – Communion - Last Song**