

The Gospel of Mark: Session 9

...the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (1:1)

Disciples of the Kingdom (Mark 9)

Overview: In chapter 8, we see Jesus clearly identified, and we hear the call to discipleship. As we continue in Mark, we're going to understand Jesus's identity as the Christ even more clearly; and we're going to learn more about what it means to be a disciple, to truly follow after Jesus. Mark 8–10 is one of the longest sections in the Bible where the repeated emphasis is the meaning of true discipleship.

9:1-13: In the transfiguration, we see a brief glimpse of Jesus in His glory. Moses (representing the Old Testament law) and Elijah (representing the Old Testament prophets) meet with Jesus and talk with Him. God speaks from heaven instructing all to listen to the Son, and then they see Jesus alone. How does this help us understand the relationship between the law and the prophets and Christ? See Matthew 5:17 for further understanding.

9:14-29: These verses tell the amazing story of a boy with an unclean spirit. What do the disciples and those standing around lack in this episode? What are they missing? See especially verses 19 and 23. How does the boy's father contrast with them in verse 24?

9:30-32: For a second time, Jesus explicitly tells His disciples what is coming. Do they understand? Jesus again uses the title "The Son of Man." Read Daniel 7:9-14 for context.

9:42-50: What seems to be the main emphasis in these verses? Is Jesus teaching that we should physically mutilate ourselves? How does Mark 7:20-23 help us understand these verses?

Following Jesus: *The disciple of Jesus—the one who is truly following Jesus—will follow Him both on the spiritual mountains and in the spiritual valleys. We will look with faith to Jesus alone. We will understand the mission of sacrifice and substitution that He willingly undertook on our behalf. We will understand that following Jesus means following Him in sacrifice and service. It also means a radical commitment to avoiding sin. How can we do this? Not in our own ability or our own greatness, but by looking to, trusting in, following after Jesus alone.*