

MARK

READ MARK 9:1-13

Pursue

In Mark 8:22-26 the author tells the story of a blind man that Jesus heals in two parts. After spitting and laying hands on his eyes, Jesus asks the man if he can see, and the man describes that people he can now see look like trees. Jesus then places his hands on the man's eyes again, heals him completely, and the man can now see the people clearly. Over the last two texts, we have seen Jesus continue to make "clear," "plain," and visible what was unclear to the disciples. Last week Jesus described **how** He would save his people and restore all creation (how His Kingdom would come) through His suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection. This week, Jesus is revealed in *even greater* glory - as the Beloved Son of God - through the transfiguration to three of His disciples.

Jesus will continue to reveal His true self-time and time and time again to the disciples. He is patient and faithful to open the eyes and ears of those who would see and listen to Him. We are often like this blind man and the disciples, needing Jesus to reveal himself to us again and again as we see dimly, forget, become discouraged, lack faith, and even pursue sin.

- How does seeing God's patient and relentless pursuit of his people encourage your faith?
- Specifically, how do you think *Jesus's transfiguration* encouraged the three disciples He invited after sharing the news of his coming death just a week before?

During Jesus' transfiguration, a cloud of God's presence surrounds the disciples, Jesus, and the men visiting Him - Moses & Elijah. A voice states, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." Suddenly the cloud disappears, and only Jesus remains in the view of the disciples. In this story, many scholars agree that Moses is meant to represent the Law, and Elijah is meant to represent the Prophets. In Matthew 5:17 Jesus states, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." In Jesus' transfiguration, God is again revealing the true identity of Jesus to these disciples as the substance of all of God's revelation throughout time.

- What do you think this revelation meant to these Jewish men? On what or who would they have relied upon, listened to, and followed up to this point?
- What do you think it means that only Jesus remained in the view of the disciples after the cloud disappeared?

Practice

Obedience & Accountability

In our text this week, we read that as a cloud of God's presence descended upon the disciples, they heard God's voice command, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." This implies a few things. First, Jesus is the very Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, and in perfect loving relationship with the Father and Spirit. Secondly, because of this relationship, Jesus knows the heart of God completely. And lastly, if we are commanded to listen to Him that implies...He is speaking. As a group, gather and discuss the following questions:

- What specific word or command of Jesus can you obey more carefully this week? How? How can we help you obey?
- What can you do over the next week to become more sensitive to God's voice (whether from His Word or His Spirit)? How can we help you?

Proclaim

Jesus calls a few of his disciples in our text this week to follow Him. As we will see, while they have surrendered to him and are following Him, they don't fully understand who He is and how He will work, especially how he will accomplish the deliverance they long for. We don't have to wait to disciple or share the beauty of Christ with others until they fully understand. What is something you learned, was convicted of, or encouraged by that you will share this week with someone who doesn't have faith in Jesus?