

**Mark 9:2-10 (NIV)**

<sup>2</sup>After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.

<sup>3</sup>His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.

<sup>4</sup>And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

<sup>5</sup>Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

<sup>6</sup>(He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

<sup>7</sup>Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

<sup>8</sup>Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

<sup>10</sup>They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what "rising from the dead" meant.

41-09-01-The Kingdom Glory of the King  
Transfiguration, Epiphany, glory, Christ's deity, suffering  
Mark 9:2-10

Remember your mountaintop visions of Jesus in life's dark valleys.

**INTRODUCTION: (text as the Scripture reading)**

–At His ministry's *outset*, Jesus got baptized in the Jordan valley: His Father said, "This is My beloved Son." Near His ministry's *close*, Jesus got transfigured on a mountaintop: His Father said, "This is My beloved Son." **Both times**, His Father gave encouraging words for what was ahead.  
–The *Transfiguration* [Grk., *metamorphoō*= "to transform"] revealed **the Kingdom glory of the King**. While it helped Jesus, it *also spoke to the disciples*, in the same way it speaks to us today: **HOM.idea**.

**I. The King's Future Kingdom Glory Prepared Him for the Cross**

- A. God's Son became human to become the *human King of God's Kingdom*. (Just as our faith needs strengthening to help us endure trials, so God saw the need to reinforce His Son's human faith.)
1. This *temporary glorification* wasn't Deity-glory, but *Kingdom glory*—a preview of the *King's resurrected and ascended glory*.)
  2. Jesus got a *mountaintop re-affirmation* of His *identity* as God's Son, before facing **the worst human ordeal in the universe!**
- B. It also affirmed His mission to fulfill the OT longings. (This is *why* in v.4a, "there appeared before them Elijah and Moses...")
1. **Moses** represented God's law (a law given but not kept); **Elijah** represented the prophetic hope for *earthly evil to end under the Messiah's reign*. (**No OT prophet** ever got to see this fulfilled.)
  2. Imagine what they said in v.4b, when they "were talking with Jesus..."—**Moses**: "O King of righteousness, You're bringing us the holiness the Law taught but never brought!" or **Elijah**: "O Prince of Peace, they mocked us for predicting VE Day (**Victory on Earth**), and here You are to bring it!"]
- C. I believe, before facing sin's horrible separation from God, Jesus treasured in heart those reassuring words, "This is My beloved Son..."

**TRANS:** The *Mount of Transfiguration* prepared Jesus for Gethsemane on the *Mount of Olives*. That's where His Passion began that climaxed on *Mount Calvary*. **But why** were only "Peter, James and John" invited to this *miraculous event*? He chose them as future witnesses, because...

## II. The Whole Church Needed to Know About His Kingdom Glory

- A. Christ's miracles had already manifested *Kingdom glory*, but these 3 got to witness that Jesus Himself was the glory of the Kingdom.
- B. In v.9, "*Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.*" (He entrusted certain ones to share this event with everyone else, but only at the proper time...)
1. God's *church-history plan* wasn't to be *blinding Damascus Road events, flaming tongues floating overhead or meetings shaken by sounds of mighty rushing wind.* (God wanted a story of faith.)
  2. *Communities of faith don't need impressive signs to believe the reports of God's ordained witnesses of His impressive signs.* (But if Jesus gives you a mountaintop experience with Him, it's not just for you, BUT for blessing the whole Body of Christ!)

**TRANS:** In *high points of prayer, worship or meditation*, we may have *epiphanies of the King's bright Kingdom glory*. Then come *low points of trial in dim shadowlands*. **Remember your mountaintop visions of Jesus in life's dark valleys. They will strengthen you! But remember! We journey together as a community of faith.** God wants us to bless others with the *glory-stories* that have blessed us, *because...*

## III. The King Wants US Transfigured by His Kingdom Glory

- A. Notice Mark's focus in v.3, *His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.* (God's Son, *clothed* in a human body, is now *clothed by the corporate Body of His Church.*)
- B. By living within, Jesus wants to *transfigure us, making our lives "dazzling" inside and out*, using 2 *dynamic changes* spelled out in Scripture with the same word *metamorphoō* used in this passage:
1. **A transfigured mind**– Rom 12:2a, Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind. (Let God's truth dispel false thinking based on any lingering lie.)
  2. **A transfigured self**– 2 Cor 3:18, And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being **transformed** into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (It means choosing to come to Him with hearts open and ready to change.)

## CONCLUSION:

–The *Transfiguration* was for *Jesus, for His disciples and for us!* It

*affirmed Jesus before His Cross and firms up believers to face trials.* It *reinforces* our faith and *exemplifies what Jesus wants to do inside us: transform our thinking and transfigure our lives with Kingdom glory.* –Our tendency with mountaintop experiences is to preserve them. (In v.5, Peter wanted to build tabernacles up there! [Amy Grant sang a song about *mountaintop experiences* and this is the chorus...)

“And I'd love to live on a mountain top	from that mountain top
Fellowshipping with the Lord	To the people in the valley below
I'd love to stand on a mountain top	Or they'll never know
'Cause I love to feel my spirit soar	that they can go
But I've got to come down	To the mountain of the Lord.”]

–So, as we **remember our mountaintop visions of Jesus in the dark valleys of life**, let's remember that, in those same dark valleys, others are lost and struggling, and our testimonies, our glory-stories, can let them know “That they can go to the mountain of the Lord.”