

ENCOUNTER.

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of Mark

Lesson Five: Encounter His Glory Mark 8-9

Up to this point, the Gospel of Mark has moved quickly. But in Mark 8-9, the pace slows. Jesus begins turning His attention away from the crowds and toward the hearts of His disciples.

Before the disciples can go any further with Jesus, they must see Him for who He truly is.

*The Messiah you are expecting will never come;
The Messiah that is coming, you never expected.*
~Old Yiddish Proverb

I. Seeing Clearly (Mark 8:1-26)

- Jesus feeds the 4000. (vv. 1-9)
- The Pharisees demand a sign. (vv. 10-13)
Persistent unbelief hardens the heart.
- Jesus teaches the disciples about leaven. (vv. 14-21)
Leaven, yeast, represents something small that eventually affects everything.
- Jesus heals the blind man in two stages. (vv. 22-26)
This two-touch healing is intentional. Dane Ortlund explains, “Throughout the Gospels Jesus ministers in two ways: teaching and healing. This is the only place where the healing *is* the teaching.”¹

The blind man’s healing mirrors the disciples’ spiritual condition. They are beginning to see that Jesus is the Messiah, but the kind of King He is still eludes them.

II. Understanding the Cost (Mark 8:27-38)

- Peter makes a bold confession. (vv. 27-30)
- Jesus predicts His suffering and death. (v. 31)
- Peter rebukes Jesus. (v. 32)
- Jesus rebukes Peter. (vv. 33)

“Get behind Me” is discipleship language. It means, “You are out of position.” Peter has moved from following Jesus to trying to lead Him.

- Jesus explains the cost of following Him. (vv. 34-38)

Three commands that shape every true disciple:

1. “Deny yourself.” To deny yourself is to step down from the throne of your life and surrender your right to rule it.
2. “Take up your cross.”

Thomas á Kempis writes, “Realize you must lead a dying life; the more a man dies to himself, the more he begins to live unto God.” ²

Paul Tripp describes what a dying life looks like:

You must die to your plans for your own life.
You must die to your self-focused dreams of success. You must die to your demands for comfort and ease. You must die to your individual definition of the good life... You must die to your desire to be in control... You must die to your own kingship. You must die to the pursuit of your own glory in order to take up the cause of the glory of Another. ³

C.S. Lewis writes: “A crucifixion of the natural self is the passport to everlasting life. Nothing that has not died will be resurrected.” ⁴

If we are unwilling to die to self, we will never experience the fullness of the new life Christ has for us.

3. “Follow Me.” Stay close. Walk with Me on the cross-shaped path, even when the road is hard.

III. Trusting His Way (Mark 9)

- Jesus is transfigured on the mountain. (vv. 1-13)
“Six days later...” (v. 2)
- Jesus heals a demonized boy in the valley. (vv. 14-29)
- Jesus predicts His suffering and death again. (vv. 30-32)
- Jesus redefines greatness. (vv. 33-37)

Jesus wants the disciples to understand: Success is not about dominance or recognition. It’s about humility and service.

- Jesus widens the circle. (vv. 38-41)

The issue is never who gets the credit, but Who gets the glory.

- Jesus warns about the seriousness of sin. (vv. 42-50)

Each disciple had to decide what they would do with Jesus. And so do we.

Jesus is calling. Will you follow?

¹ Ortlund, D. (2021). *Surprised by Jesus*, p. 62. Great Britain: Evangelical Press.

² á Kempis, T. (2007). *The Imitation of Christ*, p. 43. New York, NY: Cosimo.

³ Tripp, P. D. (2012). *Dangerous Calling*, pp. 189-190. Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

⁴ Lewis, C.S. (n.d.). *The Weight of Glory*, p. 170. Kindle edition.