

The Gospel of Mark

The Glorious Transfiguration of Jesus

Mark 9:1-13

1. Jesus is _____ Presented as Unique (Mk. 9:2-3)
During the time of His transfiguration, Jesus face became different (Lk. 9:29) and shone with the brightness of the sun (Mt. 17:2). The emanating brilliance of the glory of God even transformed His garments to be gleaming and radiantly white (Mk 9:3). When God shows forth His glory to men it is often described in the imagery of unimaginably brilliant and overpowering splendor (cf. Dan. 10:4-6). In Revelation Jesus appearance is specifically described in amazing detail that emphasizes both His nature and His activities (Rev. 1:13-16). Jesus was the only person on the mountain to be transfigured, and this was one more unique way in which God was making it clear that the Son was more than merely another prophet.
2. Jesus is _____ Presented as Unique (Mk. 9:4-8)
Jesus had called His disciples to go away with Him to pray, and they fell asleep while He was still in prayer (Lk. 9:32; cf. Mk. 14:37, 40). Jesus was transfigured while the disciples slept (Lk. 9:29) and they awoke finding Jesus, transfigured, and speaking with Elijah and Moses. There are many possible explanations for why Elijah and Moses appeared and spoke with Jesus, but the primary function of their presence is to demonstrate Jesus' superiority and uniqueness.
3. Jesus is _____ Presented as Unique (Mk. 9:7)
The disciples were absolutely terrified when a cloud of God's glory formed around them and they heard the Father speak from heaven (Mk. 9:7). The Jews considered God to be their Father in a collective sense, but to regard God as one's own individual father was to make yourself equal with God (Jn. 5:18). So when the Father refers to Jesus as His beloved Son, that is His primary emphasis: uniqueness, equality, and authority. God's command to the disciples is simple: listen to Jesus. They were not to resist the difficult teaching of His coming rejection, death, and resurrection (Mk. 8:31).