

Bible Study Class
Clayton Presbyterian Church
Lesson 12 Jesus
The Transfiguration

Opening prayer: Lord, help us hear the lesson that You want us to hear. Help us apply Your will to our lives. Amen.

Today's lesson is from Mark chapter 8 and 9 and Matthew chapters 17 and 18.

The Passion of Jesus Foretold

Read Mark 8:31-9:1

1. According to Jesus what was the purpose of the coming of the Son of man? To die for the sins of mankind. The Jewish Sanhedrin was generally designated by thus naming the three constituent parts. The elders, the chief priests and the scribes.

2. When Jesus told His disciples about the things He would suffer, including His death and resurrection, what was Peter's reaction? Peter rebuked Jesus and didn't want Him talking like that. We see by Peter's conduct that they comprehended and were deeply moved by the dark and more sorrowful portion of his revelation, and failed to grasp the accompanying promise of a resurrection. Peter had overstepped the bounds of a disciple and assumed that he knew better than Jesus.

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

3. What did Jesus say in Matthew 16:24, that one must do in order to follow Him? What does that mean? It means that Jesus must be first and foremost even if means physical death. Mark makes clear that this is said not only to the twelve disciples but to the crowd. Despite the efforts of Jesus to seek privacy, the people were still near enough to hear. The cross is a symbol for duty which is to be performed daily, at any cost, even that of the most painful death. The disciples must follow Jesus, both as to his teaching and example.

4. What did Jesus warn would happen to those ashamed of Him and His words? In the final judgment, Jesus will be ashamed of them.

5. What is the basis of every person's reward when Jesus comes again? The reward will be based on deeds, but the deeds are those that arise out of the awareness of Christ great gift of salvation. This isn't to be interpreted as earning our way to heaven.

Bible Study Class
Clayton Presbyterian Church
Lesson 12 Jesus
The Transfiguration

6. What statement of Jesus indicates His kingdom would come in the "near" future? When He says that some of the hearers won't die until they have seen the Son of Man as King. The expression refers to the kingdom which was organized and set in motion on the Pentecost which followed the resurrection of Jesus.

The Transfiguration

Read Mark 9: 2-13

7. Whom did Jesus take with Him to the mountains on which He would be transfigured? He took His inner circle, Peter, James and John. It was Jesus' custom to withdraw for prayer by night and the transfiguration took place at night, probably on Mount Hermon.

8. Who appeared with Jesus at the transfiguration? Moses and the prophet Elijah. Jesus becoming luminous and imparting its light to his garments.

9. Why did Peter suggest that three tabernacles be built? Who responded to Him? What was the response? Peter was overcome with excitement and wanted to preserve the moment. The voice of God from the cloud responded that Jesus was God's chosen Son, listen to Him. By God pronouncing Jesus as the Son, He is elevating Him about the great leaders, Moses and Elijah.

10. What charge did Jesus give the three disciples who accompanied Him as they came down from the mountain? Why? They weren't to tell about this until Jesus had risen from the dead. Fourfold reminds us that Jesus spoke in parables so they are trying to understand this as if it is a parable. They were puzzled by the disappearance of Elijah, since the sight of him would be some sign of Jesus' Messiahship. They looked upon him as having come to fulfill the prophecy of Malachi.

Malachi 4: 5-6 But before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes, I will send you the prophet Elijah. He will bring fathers and children together again; otherwise, I would have to come and destroy your country.

In Matthew we are told that the disciples understand that Jesus was talking about John the Baptist when He said Elijah has come. They spend the night on the mountain and descend the next morning. How many of us have been to retreats or

Bible Study Class
Clayton Presbyterian Church
Lesson 12 Jesus
The Transfiguration

worship groups that put us on the mountain top but when you return home, you find the valley experience.

Healing the Demonic Boy

Read Mark: 9:14-29

11. Why were the scribes questioning the disciples of Jesus? These scribes had caught the apostles in one and perhaps the only case where they had failed to cure, and they were making full use of the advantageous opportunity to discredit Christ and his apostles before the people by asking sneering and sarcastic questions.

12. What had the disciples been unable to do? The disciples couldn't heal the boy. Why? Only prayer can drive this kind out. What did Jesus do to solve the problem? Jesus asks the crowd what question they have, which silences everyone. They realize that He knows their thoughts. He healed the boy and gave him to his father.

Matthew 17:20 "He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

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13. What does it mean to have faith "as a grain of mustard seed?" The mustard seed was one of the smallest seeds, so He is indicating that even the tiniest bit of faith can do great things. The disbelief of the crowd and even His disciples contrast greatly with the experience on the mountain top. The failure of the disciples was due to their own failure to appropriate that power by faith. The relation of belief and unbelief to miraculous power is fully illustrated in Peter's attempt to walk upon the waters.

Return to Galilee

Read Mark 9:30-32

Jesus is traveling from Caesarea Philippi going through Galilee on His way to Capernaum.

Bible Study Class
Clayton Presbyterian Church
Lesson 12 Jesus
The Transfiguration

14. What did Jesus tell His disciples that caused them to be exceedingly sorrowful? He told them that He would be killed and rise from the dead in three days. While they didn't understand it when He told them, they would remember that He had told them after the Holy Spirit descends on them. Think of the lessons that we all have finally understood years after a parent or teacher told us.

15. Why did the disciples not understand what Jesus told them? Explain. They had not had the gift of the Holy Spirit bestowed on them. This would happen at Pentecost, after Jesus' death and resurrection.

Jesus Pays the Tribute Money

Read Matthew 17: 24-27

16. What was Jesus asked to pay? The temple tax. Did he have to pay it? The temple is his Father's own house, so since Jesus is the Son of God his Father, he is exempt from the temple tax. And Jesus' disciples, now part of the Father's family are likewise exempt. Explain. The law of Moses required from every male of twenty years and upward the payment of a tax of half a shekel annually for the support of the temple. We are told that a dispute existed between the Pharisees and Sadducees as to whether the payment of this tribute was voluntary or compulsory.

17. How did He get money to pay this tax.? He told Peter to catch a fish and the money will be in its mouth to pay for Jesus and Peter. This showed again Jesus' power over all nature.

18. What concern did Jesus have for the multitude? Jesus knew that these collectors were from the High Priest. He figured that this was a trap. How did He meet their needs? In the interest of avoiding a conflict with the temple authorities, they will both pay the tax. Here Jesus enunciates the principle of not giving offense to the Jerusalem authorities or "causing them to stumble" unnecessarily. Paul makes similar statement in some of his letters.

False Ambition versus Childlikeness

Read Matthew 18: 1-14

Bible Study Class
Clayton Presbyterian Church
Lesson 12 Jesus
The Transfiguration

19. What were Jesus' disciples discussing among themselves while in the way to Capernaum? What did Jesus teach them concerning this? They wanted to know who would be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven? Jesus took a child and said you must become like a child, ready to learn and without an agenda. Think of the disappointment that the disciples of the inner circle must have felt. They just knew that Jesus was going to pick one of them. Jesus told them plainly that they must turn from their sin of personal ambition.

20. According to the text, what must a person become in order to be considered great in the kingdom of heaven? Why? You have to humble and welcome those who are like children. Disciples who receive those of a childlike spirit and disposition honor the name of Christ.

Mark 9: 38-41 Now John answered Him, saying, "Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us." But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me. For he who is not against us is on our side.

21. Why had the disciples forbidden a man to cast out demons in the name of Jesus? He wasn't one of their group. They are acting out of jealousy. What was Jesus' response to this? Jesus shows that one who knows enough of him to use his power is not apt to dishonor him.

22. How did Jesus emphasize the seriousness of causing a child to stumble? He says that if you cause a child to stumble, you deserve to be drowned. Character depends upon small things. If a small act of goodness receives its reward, an act of evil, that seems small will receive its punishment. There is no size in good and evil. Heavy punishments can be issued for what we judge as small sins.

23. When Jesus spoke about cutting off a hand or plucking out an eye if it offends, was He teaching mutilation of the body? Explain. He was talking about spiritual things that may hinder us from developing spiritually. Some of us have moved from one church to another because we felt that we could grow spiritually better in another church.'

Bible Study Class
Clayton Presbyterian Church
Lesson 12 Jesus
The Transfiguration

24. What is the lesson of the one lost sheep? You will look for someone who is lost. We need to look for ways to reconnect with those who have lost their way or become disconnected for some reason.

Sin and Forgiveness Between Brethern

Read Matthew 18:15-35

25. What is the Christian's duty toward his brother who has wronged him? A Christian should go and discuss it with his brother. What if he refuses this action? The Christian should get another person to go with him so that there are two witnesses. What if he continues to refuse? Then the Christian brings the matter before the church. If the brother who was wrong refuses again, the Christian should treat him as a pagan.

26. What would happen when two or three gather in His name? Explain what that means. We are strengthened by the presence of other believers. Christ says that He will be with us. This was pointed to in Fred's sermon last Sunday when he said that we are to be living stones in the temple of God's kingdom.

27. How often is one to forgive a brother who asks to be forgiven? Seventy times seven implies an endless forgiving. Is that number to be taken literally or figuratively? Explain. We are to remember that while we may be hurt by another's actions, the sin isn't against us but against God.

28. The king forgave a large debt but when the servant was released and met a man who owed him a very small debt, he had the man put in prison. When the king heard this, he had the first servant imprisoned. We need to treat others as we have been treated by God.

Closing prayer: During this season of Lent, help us be more aware of Your presence within us and among us. Amen.

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| Mark 9:30-32 | |