



Clarity

Day 1: Called to Clarity

All three Synoptic Gospels relate a conversation Jesus has with His disciples about His death and resurrection and about the cost of true discipleship (*Matthew 16:21-28; Mark 8:31-9:1; Luke 9:21-27*). About a week later, Jesus, Peter, James, and John climb a high mountain; as Jesus prays (*Luke 9:28-29*), He is transfigured before them, and they behold His glory. Immediately after the transfiguration experience, Jesus again speaks of His death and resurrection. Read *Mark 8:31-9:13*. How do these pictures of Jesus' suffering, resurrection, and glory help us understand who He is and also our call to costly discipleship? Pray you will see Jesus more clearly.

Day 2: A Quiet Place

Jesus and His closest friends, Peter, James, and John, go alone to a high mountain, where Jesus prays. It's as Jesus prays that He is transfigured; His disciples see His glory, encounter Moses and Elijah, and hear the voice of God. Consider that Jesus, the eternal Word, one with the Father, finds a quiet place to pray, and it is in the quietness that God speaks. Read *1 Kings 19:11-13 (KJV says, "still small voice")*; *Psalm 46:10a*; *Luke 9:28-29*; and *Mark 9:2-9*. How might this prepare Jesus and the disciples for the suffering that is ahead? Do you have a quiet place where you can hear God's voice through the word and in your heart? In stillness, pray and listen.

Day 3: Radical Confirmation

Read *Exodus 34:27-32*; *2 Kings 2:11*; *Mark 9:2-9*; *2 Peter 1:16-21*; and *Revelation 1:9-20*. John, witness to the transfiguration, is the one to whom the glorified Christ speaks in the Revelation text. Consider what visions of glory God allowed ordinary fishermen to see, and ponder the effect it must have had on their faith in Jesus, as God's Messiah. Looking at *Mark 9:7*, notice God's command to the disciples and also the words which must have blessed Jesus' heart and encouraged Him. Might this mountaintop experience have helped prepare Jesus to face the cross? Tell Jesus you want to see His glory, listen to His voice, and walk in the obedience of faith.

Day 4: Moses and Elijah

Read *Exodus 19:3-6*; *34:29*; *Deuteronomy 34:10-12*; *1 Kings 18:36-39,45-46*; *Malachi 4:4-6*; *Matthew 11:13-15*; and *Mark 9:1-12*. To Jews, Moses represented the Law and Elijah, the prophets. Jesus said (*Matthew 5:17 NIV*), "Do not think I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." Consider the impact seeing Moses and Elijah would have on Peter, James, and John. Don't you wonder of what Jesus, Moses, and Elijah spoke? Do you feel like you are on holy ground as you read these texts and try, with Peter, James, and John, to grasp all that is happening? Bow in humility and awe; lift

your heart up to Jesus.

Day 5: God's Promises Find Their "Yes" in Jesus

Read 2 Corinthians 1:20. Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets, and Paul tells us in the Corinthians text that all of God's promises find their "yes" in Jesus. This means God's word is true and God's promises are trustworthy. Does it mean we always understand? Reflecting on Mark 9:1-12, on the experience of Peter, James, and John, and on your life experiences, read 1 Corinthians 13:12. James was the first apostle to be martyred; Peter was crucified; John was exiled; yet they trusted Jesus to the end. Can you trust your unknown future to Jesus, who is the Amen to God's promises? Thank God for being totally worthy of your trust and praise.

Day 6: Mountaintops and Valleys

The Law was given through Moses, but none could keep it. Elijah was God's voice to God's people, but they didn't always listen and often didn't understand. Read John 1:14,16-18; Mark 9:2-12; and Luke 24:25-27,44-48. Jesus satisfies the law's demands and is God in human flesh. On the mountain, the disciples glimpse Jesus' glory; Peter wants to build tents and linger there. But Jesus descends the mountain knowing the cross is ahead, and the disciples must walk through dark valleys. Jesus, however, leads the way, for them and for us. Thank him!

Day 7: Transfigured and Transformed

Read Mark 2:2-3,7,9-10 and reflect on what is happening and what is spoken. Those closest to Jesus are given a glimpse of His glory, hear God's voice, and are instructed to be silent about the event until after the resurrection. Do they obey? Read John 14:15-21 (note the promise in 14:21); Romans 12:2; and 2 Corinthians 3:16-18; 5:17. The same Greek word describes Jesus' transfiguration and our transformation through the indwelling Spirit. Are you allowing God's Spirit to transform you? Tell Jesus you want to reflect His glory and bring honor to His name.