

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK**

**LESSON 9A**

**THE SERVANT SON'S APPROACH TO THE CROSS**

Jesus Announcement of His Coming Death and Resurrection 8:31 – 9:29

Praise God for your desire to study the Bible. We welcome you to join our Thursday Night Bible Study sessions at FAME, 7:30 – 9:00 PM.

*Directions: Please read and study the scripture lesson and any other scripture references, the Illumination section, and the Observation section, than answer the questions in the Exploration section. When you submit your answers on the answer sheet a Bible study teacher will review your answers and provide comments within 2 weeks of submission. These comments will enrich your Bible study experience and is not intended to grade or judge your knowledge or understanding.*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mark 8:31 – 9:29 NIV</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Illumination</b></p>
<p><b>Jesus Predicts His Death</b></p> <p><sup>31</sup>He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."</p> <p><sup>34</sup>Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup>What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? <sup>37</sup>Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? <sup>38</sup>If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." <sup>1</sup>And he said to them, "I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."</p> <p><b>The Transfiguration</b></p> <p><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. <sup>11</sup>And they asked him, "Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?" <sup>12</sup>Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected? <sup>13</sup>But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him."</p> <p><b>The Healing of a Boy with an Evil Spirit</b></p> <p><sup>14</sup>When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. <sup>15</sup>As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. <sup>16</sup>"What are you arguing with them about?" he asked. <sup>17</sup>A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. <sup>18</sup>Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not." <sup>19</sup>"O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." <sup>20</sup>So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup>Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. <sup>22</sup>"It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." <sup>23</sup>"If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." <sup>24</sup>Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" <sup>25</sup>When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." <sup>26</sup>The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." <sup>27</sup>But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. <sup>28</sup>After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" <sup>29</sup>He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Son of Man</b> – the term most often used by Jesus to identify Himself.</li> <li>❖ <b>Rebuke</b> – this is the same word that was used by Jesus when He dealt with the demons in 1:25; 3:12</li> <li>❖ <b>Cross</b> – this term is a vivid illustration of humility, submission and death (possibly physical and spiritual)</li> <li>❖ <b>Life</b> – the Greek word, “<i>psuche</i>” in verse 35 refers to the soul, the part of the person that includes the personality with all its dreams, hopes and goals. Life Application Commentary – Mark</li> <li>❖ <b>Ashamed</b> – this word in verse 38 refers to more than being embarrassed. It refers to the judgment of God.</li> <li>❖ <b>Transfigured</b> – the Greek word, “<i>metamorphothe</i>” refers to a complete outward change that comes from within. Life Application Commentary – Mark</li> <li>❖ <b>Listen</b> – the Greek word, “<i>akouete</i>” in verse 9:7 refers to more than just hearing, but hearing that leads to obeying what is heard. Life Application Commentary – Mark</li> <li>❖</li> </ul>

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**Observations**

- ❖ With this lesson we begin the study of Jesus approach to the cross. The days are numbered and there was still a great deal to teach the disciples. In the previous lesson we learned that they knew that Jesus was the Messiah. But their understanding of the ministry and purpose of the Messiah was different than that of Jesus.
- ❖ In verses 8:31-33 Jesus began to teach His disciples about the ministry and purpose of the Messiah. For this lesson He does not use a parable but speaks plainly of what is to happen. In this passage Jesus refers to Himself as the Son of Man which He used about 80 times. As the Messiah He is a representative of humankind as revealed in I Cor. 15:45-47. As the last Adam He will die and be resurrected for us. Matt 12:40; 20:18; 26:2. And He will come to earth again in the Second Coming for us. Matt. 24:37-44; Luke 12:40. The Son of Man is also prophesied in Daniel 7:13. In addition, the term transcends the scope of Jewish limitations as the term Son of David does not. In these verses Jesus taught the ministry of Messiah which is different than what the people wanted.

<b>Ministry of the Messiah as Taught by Jesus</b>	<b>Ministry of the Messiah as Wanted by the People</b>
Suffer many things	How could the Messiah suffer who had come to deliver the Israelites from the bondage of the Romans and restore their land to them?
Rejected by the leaders of the Jews (Sanhedrin Council)	The Messiah would work with the Council in the deliverance of the people.
Be killed	How could the Messiah, the Son of David be killed before delivering the people?
After three days rise again	

- Once again Jesus was referring to spiritual matters and the people were referring to physical matters. Remember in the Old Testament that the Prophets had taught that the Messiah would come to bring spiritual deliverance. The Lord had sent the prophets because the Israelites had been disobedience to the Lord. They had forsaken Him and His teaching. The prophets spoke to the spiritual welfare of the nation of Israel. However the people wanted physical deliverance from the Romans.
- Peter rebuked Jesus teaching of the Messiah. He rejected the teaching because it was not in accordance with his understanding of the Messiah and because he did not want Jesus to suffer and die.
  - Peter’s reaction is understandable. This is why Jesus had to teach His disciples the true ministry of the Messiah. But Peter should have also learned by now to trust Jesus as the Messiah.
- Jesus rebuked Peter. Jesus is not calling Peter Satan. But He was saying that Peter was thinking like a child of Satan and not as His disciple. Satan does not want us to understand the true ministry of Jesus, nor our true ministry. Peter was not thinking about God’s purpose, but men.
- ❖ In the previous verses Jesus had taught about the ministry of the Messiah. In verses 8:34-9:1 He called the people and the disciples together so that He could teach them about their ministry if they chose to follow Him.
  - Jesus invited “whoever”/all to follow Him.
  - There has to be a desire to follow Him. Other can’t make you follow Him.
  - To follow Jesus you must deny self.
    - There has to be an attitude change. It becomes all about Jesus and not self.
    - A change of priorities in our lives. A willingness to let go of selfish desires and earthly security.
  - To follow Jesus you must take up our cross.
    - In humility and submission to God be prepared to obey God’s word and follow His will no matter what the consequences, even unto death.
    - The walking in humility and submission is the same cross for all Believers. But the path of the walk is different. We will all deal with different, but similar rocks in the road.
  - To follow Jesus is a moment by moment decision as we walk the same road of sacrifice and service. Praise the Lord that on this journey we have fellowship with Jesus step by step.
  - It can be said that a Believer’s life is a paradox – to save our life means to lose it.
    - When we try to save, to keep, to focus on our own dreams, hopes, desires and goals we lose our life.
    - When our life is focused on me, myself and I there is no place for God and His salvation.
    - However when we are willing to focus on the things of God and His will for us we have life in Christ.
    - When we live for Christ it may lead to death. But even in death there is life – eternal life and your testimony which brings forth spiritual life in others.

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**Observations, continued**

- Unfortunately many people don't think about the fact that we will die and we can't take anything with us. They don't understand or accept that there is eternity after Jesus returns. No amount of money or power can buy back a lost soul. Which is better – a few years of sin's pleasure followed by eternity in Hell or sacrifice and service which includes fellowship with Jesus followed by eternity in Heaven?
  - Verse 38 refers to more than being embarrassed by Jesus. Jesus is talking to them that rejected Him. When Christ returns He will judge and reject them that rejected Him as the Messiah. In addition, Jesus will review the Believers' life to determine our heavenly rewards.
  - Jesus concluded this teaching moment with a reminder that He had come to establish the kingdom of God with power. For me this means that some would live to see His death, resurrection, ascension and Pentecost. The church would be established were the Lord would reign in the hearts and mind of Believers. In addition, some would see a glimpse of Jesus in His Second Coming with a glorified presence - The Transfiguration.
- ❖ In verses 9:2-13 God affirmed/prepared Jesus for His suffering as He had affirmed Jesus for the servant ministry at His baptism. In these verses we have all the symbols of God's glory – a high mountain, shining garments, biblical patriarchs, a shadowing cloud and a voice from heaven.
- It is not known why Jesus only took Peter, James and John with Him. However they are considered to be members of the inner circle. They were the first to hear Jesus' call (1:16-19), they headed the list of disciples (3:16); present at healing in which the others were not (5:37), and with Jesus at Gethsemane (14:13).
  - Jesus took them up to a high mountain which could have been Mount Hermon or Mount Tabor. He took them to the mountain so that they could be alone. A mountain in the Old Testament was often associated with closeness to God where one could receive divine revelation – Moses, Exodus 24:12-18 and Elijah, I Kings 19:8-18.
  - On this mountain the disciples got a glimpse of Jesus' true glory, a special revelation of His divinity. Jesus' body was completely transformed into the glorious radiance that He had before coming to earth and would have after He left earth. John 17:5; Phil 2:6; Rev. 1:9- 18. This transformation showed the glory of the deity of Christ in His purity and holiness which also transformed His clothing. Jesus had taken on the form of a man to minister on earth, as revealed this was not His true form.
  - With the appearance of Moses and Elijah Jesus revealed that there was resurrection. It also confirmed for the disciples that Jesus was not Moses or Elijah as others thought. Also since He was not, but had a relationship with them He must be the Messiah.
  - Once again Peter spoke when he should have been quiet and learned. But he still did not understand what Jesus was teaching when he called Jesus, Rabbi/Master/Teacher and wanted to build three tabernacles.
  - The cloud was the glory of God. It enveloped Jesus, Moses, Elijah, Peter, James and John. The disciples did not completely understand as Peter indicated in verses 5,6 but God recognized that they were trying. This was the cloud that guided Israel out of Egypt (Exodus 13:21), that appeared to the people in the desert (Exodus 16:10; 24:15-18; 34:5; 40:34-38), that appeared to Moses (Exodus 19:9) and that filled the temple (I Kings 8:10).
  - As God had given verbal approval of Jesus as His baptism (1:11), He does it again as Jesus prepared for the next phase of His ministry. However God is not speaking to Jesus, but to the disciples. God affirmed that Jesus is His Son, the Messiah. God commanded the disciples to listen so that they could obey His Son.
  - As they left the mountain Jesus told Peter James and John not to tell anyone until after He was risen from the dead. Apparently no one else was ready to receive this special revelation.
  - The disciples still did not understanding what "rising from the dead" meant. They did not come to an understanding until after they saw the risen Jesus. The necessity of Jesus suffering and death was still beyond their understanding.
  - The disciples did ask Jesus about the teaching of the scribes concerning Malachi 4:5-6 which said the Elijah had to come before the Messiah. How could Jesus be the Messiah when Elijah had not come?
    - Jesus explained that Elijah had come – John the Baptist.
    - John the Baptist called for the repentance of the people and prepared the way for the Messiah.
    - John the Baptist had been rejected by the religious leaders (Luke 7:30) and killed by Herod.

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**Observations, continued**

- Just as John the Baptist had suffered so would the Messiah.
- ❖ In verses 9:14-29 when Jesus and the three disciples returned to the valley from the mountain He found a large crowd around the other nine disciples. The scribes were arguing with the disciples and the people were confused that they could not heal a boy.
  - The people were in awe of Jesus when they saw Him. Normally they were in awe after listening to His teaching or seeing Him performing healings or miracles. Maybe they were beginning to understand the power that He had that no one else had.
  - Jesus learned that the cause of the arguing was a boy possessed by a spirit that had robbed him of speech who needed healing. The father had brought the boy to Jesus for healing. But in Jesus absence he asked the disciples to heal him.
  - It has been debated among scholars as to whether or not the boy was demon possessed or had epilepsy. Mark mentions four times the effects of this spirit on the boy – 9:18, 20, 22, 26.
  - The disciples were not able to heal the boy. They had been given the authority to do so, but had not learned how to appropriate the power of God. The disciples were upset, the father was upset, the people were upset and scribes were upset which had let to an argument.
  - Jesus expresses His frustration in verse 19 with the disciples' lack of faith and understanding of His teaching. He will explain to the disciples in verses 28-29 why they could not heal the boy.
  - Jesus decided to heal the boy since the disciples could not. Jesus saw the condition of the boy in its fullness.
  - In this healing we see the progression of the father's faith.
    - *"But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."* Not sure Jesus can heal. Limited belief in Jesus.
    - *"If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." <sup>24</sup>Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"* After recognizing his lack of belief He asks Jesus to help him over come his unbelief.
  - Jesus heals the boy before the crowd gathers and turns the event into a circus.
    - The spirit left the boy, but it appeared that the boy was dead.
    - But Jesus took the hand of the boy and lifted him into his full healing.
  - Jesus explained to His disciples in private why they were not able to heal the boy.
    - There are different kinds or healing and deliverance which require power.
    - Power comes through prayer.
    - Prayer keeps our heart and mind in tune with God.
    - Prayer is an attitude of complete dependence on God and asking for His will and power.
    - Several manuscripts also have fasting. The purpose of fasting is to take our mind off of self and focus totally on God.
    - We need to remember that our power comes from God and not self.

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Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_

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Reviewed By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exploration**

Consider the Introduction to the Gospel According to Mark and the Illumination section and Observation section for your answers.

1. If you were living during the time when Jesus was on earth, what would you think was his ministry and purpose? What had you been taught by the religious leaders?
2. Jesus did not use a parable to teach the disciples about his suffering and death. Why?
3. Why did Peter rebuke Jesus? What do you think you would have done in Peter's place? Why?
4. Why did Jesus rebuke Peter? Do you think He was overreacting? Why or why not?
5. What was Jesus saying to Peter when He said, "Get behind me, Satan"?
6. How would you define your "cross"?
7. How can you save your life by losing it?
8. What was the importance of the Transfiguration in the life of the 3 disciples? What was the divine revelation?
9. Did Peter learn from the revelation of the Transfiguration? Why or why not? If he did not learn did Jesus give up on him?
10. What is the difference between being given the authority to heal or to deliver and having the power to heal and to deliver?
11. Why couldn't the disciples heal the boy?

**Thought For The Week:** Our power comes from God.

