

**Sermon Series:** Book of Mark  
**Sermon title:** Listen to Jesus.  
**Scripture:** Mark 9:1-8  
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church  
January 7, 2018  
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My family and I love Hong Kong garbage. You can find so many nice things in the HK lop sop.

When our church went hiking, as we were waiting at Hoi Ha Village to go back home,  
Piper saw a really nice **KitchenAid** blender just sitting there beside the trash.

We picked that thing up in a hurry and took it home to try it out. It works beautifully. It's red with a glass container.

Nice.

Well, just the other day, Zeik came up and said, "Dad, someone put a **telescope** out by the garbage." I thought it probably didn't work but we took it anyway and gave it a go.

**Guess what?**

Works wonderfully.

We went up on the roof the other night and, after much adjusting and effort, finally got it set on the moon and I was blown away by the sight.

I could see clearly and in high definition. I'd never seen the moon like that before.

**It was glorious.**

Well, in the book of **Mark**...as we have gone through it...the disciples and others have seen the magnificence of Jesus in many ways...

**but 3 guys are going to see him today in a way that they've never seen him before.** It's something they'll remember the rest of their lives.

**Let's pray.**

Turn in your Bibles to Mark chapter 9. I'll read verses 1-8.

**9 And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power."**

**2 And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, 3 and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. 4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. 5 And Peter said to Jesus,**

“Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” 6 For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

7 And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.” 8 And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

So, here we have Jesus with the Big 3- Peter, James and John up on a mountain.

Inside the 12 disciples it was these 3 men that he was closest to...and later they would be leaders in the early church.

**He took them with him,**

- (1) here on the mount of Transfiguration,
- (2) with him in the garden of Gethsemane before his death and
- (3) at the raising of Jairus’s daughter.

As they are on this mountain, the Bible says Jesus was **TRANSFIGURED** before them.

What in the world is this ‘Transfiguration’ and what does this mean?

The word here is a derivative of the word *Metamorphosis*. It means to ‘change’, to be ‘transformed’.

Jesus was changed before them...He morphed.

His appearance was changed and they saw another side of him; his divinity.

This word in Greek **doesn't** mean that Jesus' clothes just got pretty and white but it means that: ***something had changed about his nature.*** it means that ***'the essence of something has changed'***.

The Savior's inherent **splendor**, cannot be veiled at this moment.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead is now being seen.

His glory is bursting forth at this moment in such a way that his clothes are enlightened **BY** his essence.

The word 'radiant' here means *flashing..shining*.

This word 'transformed' is only used 4 times in the New Testament.

Here and in Matthew's account of the transfiguration. and the other 2 places we will ponder later by way of application.

**Romans 12:2**

**2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,**

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

**18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.**

Why is Jesus doing this?

Does he need to power up or recharge some way?

It seems that it is a special moment for the purpose of showing these 3 fishermen something they'll need to remember later.

Peter and James and John are eyewitnesses to the divinity of Jesus shining forth, visibly.

And strangely, we see Moses and Elijah show up to talk to Jesus.

Moses the prophet God used to give the Law to the people of Israel and Elijah, the prophet who was expected to appear before the Day of the Lord to restore all things.

There is so much Old Testament imagery here, or we should say the Old Testament foreshadowed this moment.

As we read Mark 9, it should take us back to **Moses** on the mountain in the cloud speaking with God. And he came down with his face shining so bright he had to wear a veil.

We should think of **Elijah** on the mountain listening for God to speak to him.. and he does...in a gentle whisper.

We should think of **Exodus 24** when Moses takes some men with him up the mountain to “see the God of Israel.” There, under God’s feet as it were, they saw a pavement of sapphire stone,....and ‘they beheld God’.

Then later Moses went up the mountain and the cloud covered the mountain for six days [Notice Mark 9:1 says ‘after 6 days’] and God called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud.”

Now **Peter’s thinking of all of these Old Testament verses** it seems and he’s scared to death and doesn’t know what to say so he blurts out, **“Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents [literally..tabernacles], one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.”**

He’s thinks he’s paying Jesus a compliment...and wouldn’t anyone....by putting Jesus side by side with Moses and Elijah.

But his response....is so off that it causes God the Father to speak audibly to correct this way of thinking.

And it is what he says...

**“This is my beloved Son; listen to him.”**

**And suddenly looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.**

Not a prophet..... but the Son.  
Not a tent..... but a human body.  
Not a man..... but God.  
No one....but Jesus.

## **Listen to HIM!!!**

Now, this phrase ‘Listen to him’ is coming directly from **Deuteronomy 18**, it says...

**15 “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—**

[he says again in verse 18]

**18 The LORD God said to me, “I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I commanded him. And whosoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.”**

**(1) When God the Father says, “Listen to him”, he is speaking directly to Peter, James and John about the present.**

“Peter, James, John...listen to what Jesus is saying to you.”

Jesus has said something very important recently and they don't seem to have heard. He'll repeat it again, too.

**Mark 8:31-** And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

**Mark 9:9-12-** And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. <sup>10</sup> So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean. <sup>11</sup> And they asked him, “Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?” <sup>12</sup> And he said to them, “Elijah does come first to restore all things. And how is it written of the Son of Man that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt?”

On **either side of the transfiguration** is Jesus telling the disciples that he is going to die and rise again.

They don't understand what he means and they keep these things to themselves.

But later...they'd remember it and speak of it and it seemed to fuel their faith.

**John....in John 1:14, “The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”**



**Peter....in 2 Peter 1:16-18** For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” 18 we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

Maybe these **pillars of the early church** needed to see his glory so that as they **suffered** and **persevered** in the footsteps of Jesus...that they would be reminded that Jesus isn't JUST the suffering savior but the **conquering King** and someday he will return in all of his glory and make things right.

Maybe you need to be reminded of that today.

Are you suffering as you follow in the footsteps of your Lord?

Here's hope: He is glorious and radiant and he's coming back and as you share in his sufferings, you'll share in his glory.

That was the specific message to the 3 men, but there's a general message to all of us.

**(2) A General message for all of us.**

## **Listen to Jesus.**

That sounds too simple doesn't it.

**Are....you....listening....to....Jesus...????**

As I encouraged you last week to saturate yourself in the Bible in 2018....this message from the Transfiguration goes right along with it.

How do you listen to Jesus?

By reading the Bible.

But sometimes Jesus is just one of several we listen to. Even without meaning to, we have 3 tents.

One for this teacher, one for this teacher, and one for the Bible.

Sometimes we are just listening to the voice in our head.

## **Listen to him!**

Listening to Jesus will transform you.  
It'll change you.

As you listen regularly, you'll see his glory and you'll change.

**2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,**

How?

**LISTEN TO JESUS**

**18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.**

How?

**LISTEN TO JESUS**