Do You Know Him?
Mark 9:2-8
Sermon Outline

A. Will You Follow Him Wherever He Leads (vs. 2-3)?:

1. Jesus had Peter, James and John continuously following Him, collectively up a high mountain.
   a) The words, after six days link the transfiguration to Jesus’ prediction in verse 1. The event occurred on the seventh day after the prediction—a day reminiscent of fulfillment and special revelation (cf. Ex. 24:15–16).[1]
   b) Mark also says, “six days” (Mk. 9:2), counting just the days between Peter’s confession and the transfiguration, whereas Luke, counting all the days involved, says, “about eight days” (Lk. 9:28).

2. Jesus continuously fellowshipped, while establishing an inner circle, ascended up a high mountain with Peter, James and John.
3. The word ‘brought them’ signify and time to worship.
4. Christ in the presence of Peter, James and John completely changed inside and outside so that His appearance was totally different.
   a) “To transfigure,” from the Greek metamorphoun, carries the root meaning “to change.” The verb occurs only four times in the Greek Bible (9:2; Matt 17:2; Rom 12:2; 2 Cor 3:18), and in each instance, it denotes a radical transformation. Referring to the transfiguration in 2 Cor 3:18, Paul says that as a consequence of beholding the glory of the Lord we were transformed (Gk. metamorphoun) from glory into glory. Similarly, Asc. Isa. 7:25 reads that the glory of Isaiah’s “countenance was being transformed” as he ascended from heaven to heaven. In Mark’s transfiguration narrative, metamorphoun does not signify a change in Jesus’ nature but rather an outward visible transformation of His appearance to accord with His nature. As a result of His transformation, Jesus’ clothing becomes “dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach it.”[2]

5. Jesus Christ made Himself appear in a form that the disciples never saw before:
   a) Jesus became a light that shown very bright so that He glittered before them (Revelation 21:22-23).
• From the Greek *metamorphoō* (source of our word “metamorphosis”), which refers to a change of essential form, not a superficial change of outward appearance. Our Lord’s human body was glorified, and it is in this glorified body that He will some-day come to establish His kingdom.

b) There is nothing on earth that can represent how bright Christ glowed or how white His garments were.

**B. Will You Remain in His Overwhelming Presence (vs. 4-6)?**:

1. Out of nowhere Elijah and Moses became visible and was before the disciples.
   
a) Elijah reportedly never died; Moses was buried by God Himself, and some (unbiblical) Jewish traditions even claimed that Moses was still alive (cf. comment on Rev 11:6). These two figures were both expected to return in some sense before the time of the end.

2. The appearance of Elijah and Moses lasted for some time.
3. The conversation between Christ, Elijah and Moses lasted for some time. The conversation was continuous as if there were no plans to stop.
4. Peter broke his silence by continuously making an effort to communicate with Christ.
5. Peter called Christ Rabbi, God called Christ His Beloved Son.
   
a) The disciples have not come to the recognition of Jesus as God’s Son on their own (so Matt 16:17; 2 Pet 1:17–18). Understanding the nature of God and God’s work in the world is not a human accomplishment. Faith is always and only our assent to the truth that has been revealed to us, apart from which it cannot be known.

6. Peter continuously stated that this experience is tremendously beneficial for James, John and himself to be present. This has such superior benefit that Peter does not want it to end.
7. Peter once and for all wants to make tent like structures, that were used in the wilderness wonderings, in order to sustain and care for what was happening before him and the other two disciples.
   
a) He said it was good for them to be there, implying that he wished to prolong the glorious experience. His idea that they build three shelters (tents of meeting, booths; cf. Lev. 23:33–43), one each for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, confirms this and may imply that he viewed all three as being equal in importance.
b) Unwittingly or not, Peter (cf. Mark 8:32) was again resisting the suffering which Jesus had said would precede the glory.\[21\]

8. Peter did not have any divine knowledge provided from a past experience that could provide direction in the present situation. Peter and the other disciples lacked a complete understanding of what was taking place.

9. Even though the disciples did not understand they still sought to be involved.

10. They were extremely afraid to the point of being outright frightened.

11. Even though they were afraid, they did not run.

C. Will You Listen to Him Always (vs. 7-8)?:

1. Out of nowhere a cloud formed.

2. The cloud continuously placed a shadow over Peter, James and John representing the presence of God in their midst.

   a) The cloud is frequently a symbol of God’s presence to protect and guide (Ex. 16:100 19:9; 24:15-18; 33:9-10).

3. God spoke once and for all out of the clouds.

   a) The voice of God the Father was heard audibly three times during the life of Christ. The other two occasions were at Jesus’ baptism (1:11) and during His triumphal entry into Jerusalem (John 12:28).\[8\]

4. Christ existence is continuous, and He has always existed (John 1:1-3; Mark 8:27-30).

5. Christ is well beloved of the Father. He is completely pleasing to the Father.

6. The disciples must pay strict attention to what Christ is teaching and must always do so with a mind to do what they have heard.

   a) Listen to Him (pres. imper.), actually means, “Be obedient to Him.” This reflects the prophecy of Deuteronomy 18:15 (cf. Deut. 18:19, 22 also) and serves to identify Jesus as the new and final Mediator of God’s rule in its present and future form (cf. Ps. 2:4–7; 2 Peter 1:16–19). Jesus succeeded Moses and Elijah, who suddenly disappeared leaving no one except Jesus. Their work was done, and they were superseded. Jesus, not Moses or Elijah, is now God’s authorized Ruler and Spokesman.\[9\]

7. When the cloud is removed and the disciples glance completely around themselves they saw only Christ.

8. They came to a complete understanding, based on what they were experiencing around them, that only Christ was there.
9. They saw Christ in His original form but the experience of Him changed how they now know Him.
10. What the disciples were expecting to see and do was no longer necessary.

a) All of the events that took place after this power scene still took place. This powerful exposure of who Christ is did not stop the leaders from slandering Christ, did not remove the pain of Christ suffering before the cross or after, it did not change all that Peter and the rest of the disciples were going to experience. For the people suffering in Rome it does not mean that Christ is no longer alive and powerful. He has a purpose and a plan.