

Read Mark 9:2-8

What is happening in this story?

Compare Exodus 19:16-20, Exodus 33:18-23, 1 Kings 19:9-13. What did both Moses and Elijah see on top of the mountain in their stories? And what did the disciples see on the top of the mountain in this story?

How often do you think about how big and powerful and glorious Jesus is? Have you considered how you would have responded if you had seen Jesus in His glory like Peter and James and John did? How should the glory of Jesus affect your day to day life?

Read Mark 9:9-13

On the way down the mountain, Jesus again tells the disciples not to talk about what they saw. But this time, He gives them a time frame. They can't talk about it until after He rises from the dead. The disciples don't like that Jesus is talking about dying again. They don't understand what He means by rising from the dead. If you had seen Jesus' glory and power like they had, would you find it hard to believe that He was going to die? Why?

The disciples respond by asking Jesus about Elijah. The disciples thought Elijah would come and all of Israel would turn back to God and the messiah would have an easy time when he came. They got this from Isaiah 40:3-5, Malachi 3:1-4 and Malachi 4:1-6, which talk about God preparing for the day of the Lord by sending his servant, Elijah to them. What do these verses (especially Malachi) say that God will do to His enemies when this day comes?

What does Malachi 3:1-4 say about who will be able to stand when God does this? What will God have to do to His people so they don't get destroyed too (verse 3)?

Jesus helped his disciples correctly understand that these prophecies were talking about John the Baptist was the one who came who was like Elijah (see Mark 1:2-8). And John was rejected and killed. And He pointed out that the Messiah must suffer and be rejected too. The disciples had a wrong idea of what the Messiah's power and victory would look like. Jesus was trying to show them that He **had** to die for them. Why did He have to die? How did His death solve the problem in Malachi 3:2-3?

Spend some time in prayer thanking God that Jesus is not a king who came to destroy His enemies, but to be destroyed for them (for us) so we could be purified and forgiven. Thank Him that Jesus was resurrected, showing His victory and kingship and power. Ask for help to follow Him to death and be willing to lose your life for His sake and the sake of the gospel. Ask for help to live in the victory and power of the resurrection as citizens of the kingdom of God.