

Re.Mark.Able Life Lessons Study Guide
Week 1, Day 1

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word and the many lessons it contains. Help me to use the next six weeks to focus on learning the lessons given and to apply them in my daily life.

As you read the verses below, answer these questions and then compare your answers with the ones given.

Who is in the text?
What is happening in the text?
When does the story take place?
Where does the story take place?
Why is this story in the Bible?
How does this story relate to me and my life?

Mark 9:2-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

2 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. 3 His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them. 4 And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. 5 Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"— 6 because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid.

7 And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" 8 Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus with themselves.

9 Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead. 10 So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant.

11 And they asked Him, saying, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"

12 Then He answered and told them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and restores all things. And how is it written concerning the Son of Man, that He must suffer

many things and be treated with contempt? 13 But I say to you that Elijah has also come, and they did to him whatever they wished, as it is written of him."

Who: Jesus Christ
Three of the disciples: Peter, James, and John
Elijah the Prophet
Moses
God

What: Jesus has taken three of His disciples to the top of a mountain to witness His transfiguration and interaction with Elijah and Moses. God uses the transfiguration of Jesus Christ to reveal Christ's divine nature. God audibly spoke to the disciples, exalting Jesus above Moses and Elijah. He was showing the disciples that Jesus is the long awaited Messiah. God is also giving very clear instruction to....listen!

When: This set of passages followed Jesus' statement six days earlier, "And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power." This is an explanation of His earlier statement.

Where: This story takes place on a mountain top, possibly around Mount Hermon. God previously met with Elijah and Moses on a mountain top and now uses another one to show how Elijah, Moses, and Jesus had each come to fulfill the prophecy.

Why: This story can be used to teach us some very valuable life lessons and to show us a glimpse of what is to come.

How: (This answer should be personal to each individual.)

Prayer: Lord, help me to focus on the above set of passages this week and dig deep into it in order to learn what Your plan is for me. Help me to hear from You throughout my day.

Week 1, Day 2

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I ask that You be with me during my time of study today. Help me to block out all distractions so that I can truly hear from You.

Mark 9:2-4 New King James Version (NKJV)

2 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. 3 His clothes

became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.

The two verses above are rich with information and value. Jesus takes three of His disciples to experience His transformation. He was making sure that three men would witness this event so they could later record a story that would be told and read for many, many years to come.

The transformation of Jesus was not just any transformation. This transformation was from the inside out. The Almighty God shined a light from within His Son. The light was not shining down upon Jesus but God's light was radiating from Jesus' very being. This light was so bright that it made His clothes shine the brightest white possible. What a glorious sight to behold!

Mark 9:4 And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.

What! Elijah and Moses now appear with Jesus?! This moment must have been mind blowing for Peter, James, and John. My prior understanding of the portrayal of these three men has been that these particular three were chosen because they were dear to Jesus' heart and a part of His very close, inner circle. In my research for this study, I found an author who suggests that Jesus may have felt the need to always keep Peter, James, and John close to Him because they were still in the infancy stage of their faith and needed constant guidance and supervision. I find that point of view very interesting. However, no matter what the actual truth is, I cannot imagine being chosen to see this glorious event as being thought of as anything other than a blessing and honor.

A couple things to ponder:

Jesus chose Peter, James and John to be led away from the other disciples to a mountain so that they could witness His transformation. Can you imagine the honor that was bestowed upon these three? I wonder if they ever realized the full extent of what an amazing event they were privileged enough to witness.

Also, what did Jesus, Moses, and Elijah talk about? Oh, what I would not give to have been there for such a conversation. I look forward to the day I am able to sit down with them and ask that very question. How about you, what question or questions are you looking forward to being answered in Heaven?

Let's take what we have learned from the above verses and apply it to ourselves. Please read the verses below in preparation of switching gears.

Romans 12:1-2 New King James Version (NKJV)

***12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.***

2 Corinthians 3:18 New King James Version (NKJV)

18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Life Lesson #1: People perform a masquerade, God performs a metamorphosis.

We can easily become caught up in our outside appearance. We can put on our best, most expensive clothes, carry high dollar accessories and put on a really good show for others all the while our hearts are dark and empty. Our problem is that by doing all of the above, we can have the outward appearance of being 'all together' but we cannot cover up or hide the fact that we are all sinners in constant need of a heart and mind transformation that only Jesus Christ can perform.

God wants to transform us as well. He wants us to be transformed in His same image. So many times we think that if we would only try harder or do more then we would be a better person or closer to Him. The truth is that only God can change us. He knows exactly what we need when we need it. We only have to seek Him and ALLOW Him to make the necessary changes.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, please help me to seek You and Your Word in the coming year so that You are able transform me into the follower You would have me to be. Lord, change me from the inside out that all may see You in me and know that I am a believer and follower of You.

Week 1, Day 3

Prayer: Lord, please help me to look to You for the answers to the things I do not understand. Also give me peace in knowing that there is no possible way I can fully understand all of Your ways and the full meaning of Your many stories and lessons. Help me to seek the understanding that You would have me to gain in each area of study and to apply it in my life. Help me to grow in my understanding of You every day.

Mark 9:5-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

5 Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"— 6 because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid.

Life Lesson #2: Jesus' presence on the mountain prepares us for the battles in the valley.

I couldn't help but chuckle a little when I first read Peter's response. I chuckled because on countless occasions I have been awestruck, mesmerized, or baffled to the point of being speechless. However, like Peter, I do not simply keep my mouth shut and take in the moment but I almost always proceed to say something that is not fitting of the occasion.

Once again, when I began to study the text more I realized I misjudged Peter. Given Peter's position and the knowledge he had at the time, his response actually makes sense. The scripture written and stories to that point had told of a Messiah who would come after Moses and Elijah and Peter's understanding was that Jesus would establish His Kingdom on earth. Peter did not understand that Jesus was going to establish His kingdom in Heaven. Jesus Christ had not been crucified and resurrected so Peter did not yet have all of the pieces of the puzzle. So, by offering to build the three men shelter Peter showed his willingness to do whatever it took to help establish the Kingdom.

I am so very thankful that GOd sees our hearts and our true motivation. Even when we say things that do not make sense, He understands what is coming from the heart. I am also so very thankful that Jesus truly does transform our hearts as we seek Him and listen to Him. It is His presence that helps equip us for every battle we will face. Just like Peter, we will face situations that are beyond our ability to comprehend. Thankfully we have a God who is ever present and willing to teach us what we need to know when we need to know it.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for being ever present in my life and for the opportunity to meet with You at all times. Lord help me to seek to speak with You and hear from You each and every day. I look forward to hearing from You today and following Your voice wherever it leads me.

Week 1, Day 4

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for Your many blessings. Thank you for the opportunity to serve You another day and Your grace and mercy. Help me to start every morning with the intent to not only hear You but to listen to You as You speak to me.

Mark 9:7-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

7 And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" 8 Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus with themselves.

Jesus is transformed on the mountain top by our Heavenly Father while Peter, James, and John watched. You would not think this story could not get any better but it does! The very voice of God comes from a cloud and confirms that Jesus is the true Messiah.

After reading the above passages I can relate even further with Peter wanting to build them each a shelter on the top of the mountain. Who wouldn't want to stay there in the very presence of God?

Life Lesson #3 The question is not whether God speaks but whether we listen.

The transformation revealed Christ's divine nature. God's voice exalted Jesus above Moses and Elijah as the long-awaited Messiah.

God is showing that Jesus is the fulfillment of all that God had done through the Law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah).

God created us to be in relation with Him. He wants to spend time with us and speak to us every day. However, we are often wayward children who do not do what we should so we miss out on precious time with Him. We miss out on His very presence in our lives. I am so thankful that even when I do not acknowledge Him and take time to be with Him, He is still patiently waiting with me to hear from me. How about you? How often do you hear from God? Do you pray that He will speak to you and then take the time to listen to the voice inside you that He is trying to use to answer those prayers?

Prayer: Lord, please help me to seek your presence both on the mountain and in the valley. Please help me to not wait until I am in the valley to seek You but to be in Your Word and hear Your voice as You guide me every day. Please help me to stop and listen for You.

Week 1, Day 5

Prayer: Heavenly Father, be with me today as I seek to put to use all that I have learned this week. Help me to come up with a plan that is pleasing to You and Your will for my life. More than anything else Lord, let me hear from You today as I go about developing this plan so that I know for sure it is Your plan and not mine.

It is go time! Please be sure and carve some time out today to seek God's voice and the opportunity to hear from Him.

Cody talked about the importance of having a plan of action. He shared his plan: time for a daily devotional, a weekly Sabbath, and yearly retreats. What is your plan for implementing the three life lessons covered this week?

Life Lesson #1: People perform a masquerade, God performs a metamorphosis.

How do you need God to transform your life? What areas do you need to turn over to Him and let Him change your heart.

Life Lesson #2: Jesus' presence on the mountain prepares us for the battles in the valley.

How are you making time to connect and hear from God. Do you have a plan for the mountain and for the valley?

Life Lesson #3 The questions is not whether God speaks but whether we listen.

How will you focus on hearing from God? Do you listen to Him when He talks to you?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for the lessons that I have learned this week. Help me to focus on internalizing the lessons I have learned. Please transform me from the inside out and be with me as I seek to navigate through the valleys and while on the mountain top.