

THE REVIEWS:

1. Try to put yourself in Peter's, James', and John's minds. They were singled out to experience God's glory and presence. Might you have responded differently?
2. What might have been your "take away" from the experience of seeing Jesus in his glory?
3. What are some attributes of Jesus' character in this lesson?

FURTHER STUDY:

A. Other Scriptures:

Luke 9:28-36

Matthew 17:1-8

Elijah's Story: 1 Kings 17-19; 2 Kings 1-2

B. Suggested Reference Materials:

"Beautiful Outlaw" by John Eldredge

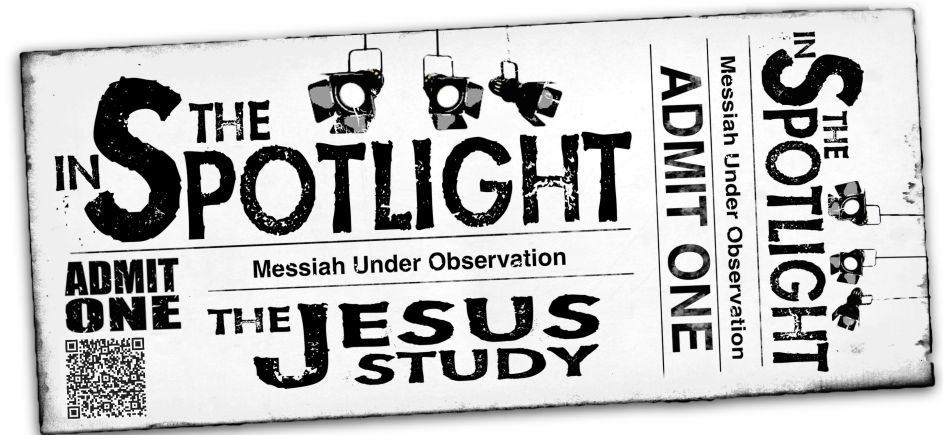
"The Jesus I Never Knew" by Phillip Yancey

"Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus" by Lois Tverberg

Next Week: Mark 9:33-50; 10:31

"US & THEM"

You won't want to miss it!



LESSON #14

"Power & Glory"

Mark 9:1-32

Focus Scripture:

Mark 9:7

"This is my son, the beloved.
Listen to him!"

Food for Thought

Have you ever experienced a time when you spoke too soon, or felt compelled to say something, anything, but in hind sight, you should have kept your mouth shut?

Vocabulary Definitions:

Shekhinah: (Šəḵīna), is the English transliteration of a Hebrew word referring to God "dwelling" or "settling." The word "Shekhinah" is not found in the Bible, however, it appears in the Mishnah, the Talmud, and Midrash. Shekhinah is a feminine word in Hebrew, referring to a divine manifestation of the presence of God.

Brief Historical and/or Cultural Context:

Last week's and this week's lessons are at the center of Mark's Gospel. They proclaim Jesus as God's Messiah, who's mission is to teach how God's Kingdom works, and to suffer a criminal's death to redeem the world from evil and corruption. Mark also proclaims Jesus as the Son of God in the story of the transfiguration. Also, again in this week's lesson, Elijah's name is mentioned. Elijah defended the worship of Yahweh over that of the more popular god, Baal. Elijah raised the dead, brought fire down from the sky, and ascended into heaven in a whirlwind (either accompanied by a chariot and horses of flame or riding in it). Moses also shows up in this lesson, with Elijah, talking with Jesus. The closing passage from the last book of our Old Testament speaks of both Moses and Elijah, Malachai 4:1-6. (Bible nerd humor: We think "Transfiguration" Sunday ought to be named "Name Tag" as: how did the disciples know Jesus was talking with Elijah and Moses, unless they were wearing their name tags?!)

Scenes 1-2

THE STAGE: 9:1-13

Read the following passages about God's presence and the manifestation of "glory" and "power"

2 Kings 2:9-11 Elijah's ride into Heaven

Exodus 34:29-35 Moses' shining face

Exodus 13:21-22 Pillar and Cloud

John 1:1-5; 14 The glory of Jesus

Luke 24:44-49 Clothed with power

Acts 2:1-4 Clothed with glory

1. What are some manifestations of God's presence?
2. Who is the audience for Mark 9:1?
3. Who is the audience for Mark 9:2-13?

THE SCRIPT:

1. How might Luke 24:44 and Acts 2:3 explain Jesus' strange comment in Mark 9:1?
2. Jesus often went off to talk with his father, many times up on a "mountain." What are the chances that this was not his first encounter with God's presence, and other heavenly beings?
3. Why do you think Jesus took with him James, John, and Peter?
4. Think differently: Could Jesus, concerned that his followers weren't getting the message, have brought them to "Dad" to set them straight?
5. What were the disciples discussing on their way down the mountain?
6. Of whom is Jesus referring (*perhaps*) in 9:13?

Scene 3

THE STAGE: Read Mark 9:14-29

1. Who are the players in cast in this scene?
2. Who is arguing, and about what?

THE SCRIPT:

1. To whom is Jesus responding, with frustration?
2. How does the situation intensify when Jesus shows up?
3. How does Jesus express calm in the midst of this storm?
4. Jesus' response to the father's request can be read in several ways: "**IF** you are able?!" ("You don't think I am able?") or "**If YOU** are able!" ("If you believe, it's up to you!"). How do you read it?
5. What do you make of Jesus' response to the disciples' question in 9:29? The passage doesn't say he prayed prior to the exorcism. What do you think Jesus means about prayer?

Scene 4

THE STAGE: Read Mark 9:30-32

1. Where are the disciples now?

THE SCRIPT:

1. Why do you think Jesus told only his disciples about his upcoming demise, and not the crowds following him?
2. What were the disciples' responses?

THE REVIEWS: (continued on last page)