

READ Mark 9:1-13 (NIV)

And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.”

2 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. 3 His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. 4 And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

5 Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” 6 (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

7 Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” 8 Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. 9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. 10 They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what “rising from the dead” meant.

11 And they asked him, “Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?”

12 Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected? 13 But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him.”

WHO WAS JESUS ON THE INSIDE?:

› **(V. 2) Transfigured.** The word “transfigured” is the translation of metamorphoōmai (μεταμορφοομαι). The simple verb refers to the act of giving outward expression of one’s inner character. The expanded translation reads, “The manner of His outward expression was changed before them, that outward expression coming from and being truly representative of His inner nature.”

¿ What did the world see when they looked at Jesus? And what did Peter, James, & John get to see?

› **(V. 4) Elijah and Moses.** Both were prophets and both dealt with law. Both had mysterious endings. One was taken to heaven after death, one while he was alive. Both were associated with Mt. Sinai (Ex. 19/1 Kgs 19:1–9)

¿ Out of all of the possible visitors, why do you think Jesus wanted Peter, James, & John to see his conversation with these two?

› **(V. 5) Three shelters.** Peter said “Let us, Jesus, Peter, James, John make three shelters (some translations: “tabernacles”). The

YES • NO • MAYBE

1. Most of the people here wear masks to hide their true self.

2. I act exactly the same 24/7, at home, & even at The Bible Lab.

3. I understand who Jesus was.

4. If heavenly beings showed up at my house, my first thought would be to make them comfortable.

5. Our beliefs get in the way of what God is doing.



DIVE DEEPER (CONTINUED...)

word “shelters” is skēnē (σκηνη). The Greek word comes from a word meaning “to cover.” The word here referred to a tent made of green boughs, skins, or other materials. Peter had in mind just a tent in which to find shelter, not the Tabernacle as it was set up in Israel in Old Testament times. It was probably at the time of the Feast of Booths (also called Tabernacles).

¿ What seems to be Peter’s greatest concern, and how did God respond? What does this say about God?

› (V. 7) **A cloud appeared and covered them.** Throughout Scripture the cloud is the symbol of God’s presence and glory. I.e.: “When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain” (Exod 24:15–16). According to Mark, the cloud “enveloped” or overshadowed (Gk. *episkiazein*) them. This verb occurs only rarely in the Greek Bible, but it is used in Exod 40:35 to describe the cloud that filled the tabernacle with the glory of God and in 1 Kgs 8:10–11 to describe the cloud filling Solomon’s temple. Also used in the overshadowing (Gk. *episkiazein*) of Mary by power of the Most High at the annunciation (Luke 1:35).

¿ What parallels can you see between Peter’s concern and God’s concern? What does this concern reveal about God’s character?

› (V. 8) **They no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus.** After Elijah, Moses, and the cloud disappear, Jesus stands alone with them. In the depths of their bewilderment, Jesus is with them. Then as now—they are not expected to go it alone in this hard and joyous thing of discipleship. Precisely where they hear the gospel, where they see both its glory and their own inadequacy, there Jesus is with them. He does not abandon them for glory but turns from glory to accompany them “on the way” to Jerusalem and the cross.

¿ What does this tell you about Jesus?

› (V. 11-13) **Elijah must come first?** Peter, James, & John are confused because their beliefs from prophecy didn’t match the timeline Jesus is telling them.

¿ How do our beliefs get in the way of what God is doing?

NOTES

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MY PRAYER

1. How much do I allow God to show his true self?
2. In what ways might God want to cover me with His presence?
3. What new thing does God need me to know about His character this week?