



# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

## WEEK 27: MARK 9:2-13 DIVINE ENDORSEMENT

Last week we saw that the Christ that the disciples had been waiting for was not the Christ that was to be revealed. Jesus revealed that He was going to be a Suffering Christ! Not a glorious, untouchable and unconquerable Christ, but a Christ who would suffer at the hands of men and succumb to death. But, death would not be the end of Him, because after 3 days He would rise from the dead! All that He would have to suffer, He would suffer for the sake of bringing salvation to mankind! And if that wasn't heart-shattering enough, He would go on to teach that those who would follow Him will have to also suffer in this life for His name!

### 1. The suffering Christ is divinely endorsed by the Father!

- Read Mark 9:7

The transfiguration is all about the Father stepping in and reassuring that all that Christ will have to suffer, all that He will have to endure for the sake of bringing salvation to a lost world, is endorsed by the very Father who loves His one and only Son! Jesus' suffering and death doesn't catch the Father by surprise, but He divinely endorses it!

#### I. "This is my beloved Son; listen to Him!"

- ❖ Q: What is the significance of God speaking (His endorsement) in this account, and the other account in Mark 1:11? (Hint: What is being confirmed about the identity and ministry of Jesus?).

### 2. The power of the kingdom of God is the crushed, crucified and resurrected Jesus Christ!

- Read Mark 9:1 & 9:11-13

The power of the Kingdom of God isn't simply angel armies, blinding lights, signs and wonders, or anything else we may prize as power; the power of the Kingdom of God is the *crushed, crucified and resurrected Jesus Christ*, The Father's beloved Son, whom the Father causes to suffer for the sins of the world and the redemption of sinners!

- ❖ Q: Considering the disciples' idea of what the Messiah was going to be, how does the idea of a suffering Messiah compare to that?
- ❖ Q: Not discounting the power that was demonstrated through Jesus' transfiguration, how is power displayed through Jesus going to the cross?
- ❖ Q: Do you consider that to be powerful in comparison to today's perception of power? Why?
- ❖ Q: The power displayed at the cross and Jesus resurrection was that of conquering the curse of sin and death. How is that power realized in your own life, and what are the implications of that power in your life?

### So what?

- There are 2 implications from the points mentioned:

#### I. God is for you!

Many of us live as if God has it in for us. That's the furthest thing from the truth! By endorsing the suffering Christ for our salvation, He shows just how much He is for us! Perhaps the sin that grieves Him most isn't that particular sin which comes to mind when you disqualify yourself from His love, but it is that you don't believe that He is so *for you*.

- ❖ Q: Do you ever feel like you are disqualified from God's love?
- ❖ Q: What has led to that feeling?
- ❖ Q: How does the cross (crucifixion of Jesus) speak to that?

#### II. God is with you!

Our suffering for the sake of Christ doesn't go unnoticed by God! Many of us can feel like God is oblivious to our suffering, especially suffering we endure for His name sake.

- ❖ Q: If God endorses the suffering of His Son, do you think He would endorse your suffering for His name?
- ❖ Q: Where in your life do you feel like your suffering goes unnoticed by God?
- ❖ Q: Are there any areas of your life where you have given up repenting and believing in the Suffering Christ, to be more comfortable?
- ❖ Q: How can you best pray for yourself and others in those areas and better commit them to God?

