

Ron Armstrong • October 19 & 20, 2019

Original: The Unequivocal Assertion

Mark 8:34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. [35] For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. [36] What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? [37] Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? [38] If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

[9:2] 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 enveloped 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.

A. There is nothing SUBTLE about the transfiguration.

1. Mark is making an unequivocal, clear, and dramatic assertion: This is the Christ/Messiah.
2. Transfiguration means SUPERNATURAL radiance and change in appearance.
3. Mark points out several details that are also in the OT to help us recognize the significance of Jesus.

- a. Moses goes up the mountain to meet God. (Face shines, cloud)
- b. Moses AND Elijah show up to represent the Law and the prophets.
- c. The sign from heaven at the baptism of Jesus is being REPEATED.
- d. And the shelters? During the Feast of Tabernacles, they would build shelters. What's the message? We are leaving EGYPT.

B. First the challenge, then the mountaintop.

1. Pick up your responsibilities and follow me. This isn't a call to physical death; it's a call to FOLLOW.
2. Here's how we teach discipleship:
 - a. Come. The Bible doesn't suggest it; it directs it.
 - b. Group. That's where we learn to feed ourselves.
 - c. Serve. This is how we learn that life is about more than us.
 - d. Give. It's the result of gratitude and the source of joy.
 - e. Go. "Go ye into all the world ..."
3. Most Christ-followers don't REFUSE discipleship; they just don't notice until they're in the wrong neighborhood.