**Follow – Gospel of Mark - Wk 21 – The Ultimate Transformer**

**17 at youth (Camp Dallas) Just graduated - gave a testimony - sang special - did a drama. Lead small group. Worship was powerful – teaching hit me in the heart. and that Thur night – called to ministry… It was a mountain top –**

**We are walking in the steps of Jesus w/ his disciples - Gospel of Mark. Mark has been telling us this is God in a bod – God in the flesh.**

**Today a strange mysterious mountain top event no one knew about until Jesus rose. Mentioned in 3 gospels and Peter’s 1st letter**

**(On the heels of revealing his death…) Mark 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.**

**We don’t know what mountain – Church of the Transfiguration in Israel claims it’s Mount Tabor – pic - Others mount Hermon.**

**There he was transfigured before them. (metamorphoó - transformed – metamorphosis. Transformers – robot into a car, ship, plane…) 3 His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them*.* (Matthew 17:2, “His face shinned like the sun” Luke 9:29 – “as bright as a flash of lightening” mark says - better than Clorox – a little understated)**

**What Just Happened? They hiked up a high mt. and Jesus from the inside out - was transformed - He took on the glory of heaven.**

**His body & clothes were beams of light. Not on - but from him!**

**The glory he was concealing and restraining his whole earthly life. God gave them a glimpse of Jesus glory!**

**(Jesus is bursting with light - and it gets wilder) Mark 9:4 And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. (Whaaaa!!!?? To Jewish people these were the ultimate celebrity action hero icons!! Action figures and baseball cards – posters on the wall.)**

**Who are these guys Moses and Elijah? The OT representatives**

**\*They represent the word of God- Moses (Torah / Law) Elijah (prophets)**

**They represent the sum of the entire Old testament covenant.**

**\*They were both personally cared for by the Lord at the end of their life**

**Deut 34 – the LORD buried Moses / 2 King 2 – the LORD took Elijah up.**

**\*They both gave evidence of life beyond the grave. (still debated)**

**Moses died 1,400 yrs and Elijah 900 yrs before them – yet right before the eyes of Peter, James, John- they’re talking w/ Jesus**

**Luke 9:31 says they were talking about Jesus departure and the fulfillment of the cross. What that might have been like…**

**Mark 9:5 Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. (this is amazing!!) Let us put up three shelters - one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (foot mouth) 6 (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)**

**What were they saying? What did they mean?**

**Forget the suffering stuff – this is awesome! Let’s build some tents / dwellings and stay here in this glory. We don’t need to ever leave!**

**It is about to get even more wild… 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!”**

**Who was that speaking from the cloud? Sovereign God almighty!**

**This made it clear Jesus is not the same as Mo & E. Just like at the baptism of Jesus – God is assuring them of who Jesus is – God in the flesh, and what you are about to walk thru is the plan of God.**

**8 Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. (love that phrase - to get to that place) 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. (This is not shared or written down until after the resurrection.) 10 They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what “rising from the dead” meant. (they were so confused)**

**(on the way down the mountain) 11 And they asked him, “Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?” (Malachi 4:5-6 – says the prophet Elijah will come before the Messiah comes. If that is true was that it? When did he come?) 12 Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. (the prophets are right) Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected? 13 I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him.” (a refence to the work and death of John the Baptist)**

**Some suggest this is a refence to the second coming of Jesus.**

**But Jesus had already taught them that John Baptist was the fulfillment of the coming of Elijah in Malachi 4. The one who came to prepare the way in “the spirit of Elijah.” (Matt 11:14, Luke 1:17)**

**This is the only time in the gospels Jesus is revealed in his glory.**

**What are we to do with The Metamorphosis? Some things stand out.**

1. **The crowd is fun, but deep growth is often in the small numbers.**

**Mark 9:2 …Jesus took Peter, James and John with him… (Peter and 2 brothers)**

**Jesus had the thousands, the hundreds, 72, 12 and the three.**

**He took “The Big 3” places the others never went. They saw more miracles, heard more teaching – than any of the others.**

**They are the only names given in Acts after Acts 1 – primary leaders.**

**Discipleship gets small before it gets bigger. Growth is birthed out of relationships. Disciples make disciples – who are your three?**

**And these 3 were the wild ones, Peter & “the sons of thunder.”**

**The guys you can’t trust alone back at camp. You guys are w/ me. God sees in the unlikely future leaders and kingdom shakers.**

**Mark 9:2 … Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone.**

**Aren’t you glad God blesses us with the mountain top encounters? It is on the mountain that Jesus is revealed.**

**Camps, services, worship events, prayer times - times of seeing and experiencing his Glory. But notice…**

1. **The mountain top is always preceded by a climb**

**Some want the mountain w/out the climb. Hiking, CA. OR, AZ**

**It gets steeper and harder the closer… “Okay Jesus, why me? I’ll see you guys back at the bottom.”**

**Many want the glory w/out the struggle – without the tenacity, persistence, determination, and endurance to get there.**

**People want a position without the pain it takes to get there.**

**But there will never be a mountain tops without the pain of the climb. That climb is part of the process.**

1. **Sometimes the best thing you can do is be quite and wait**

**So, they get there (Matt & Lu say they fall asleep – then wake up to the amazing glory of God – and what do they say…?**

**Ma 9:5 Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. (this is amazing!) Let us put up three shelters - one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (they got dumb when they attempt to make what God was doing better)**

**But instead of waiting and listening – they moved in the flesh.**

**It was after they heard the voice of God that they began to understand.**

**God literally says – be quiet and listen.**

1. **To be in the presence of God is (not always rainbows and butterflies it is) sometimes frightening and confusing.**

**Mark 9:6 (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)**

**Why? Because when we see a glimpse of the holiness and power of God - we are confronted with our own sin and weaknesses. You want the mt. – prepare to be confronted.**

1. **The Grace of Jesus takes us where the Old covenant never could**

**Moses and prophets could never take us to the glory of God, they only point to it. But with Jesus they found themselves in the middle of it.**

**\*\* Good works and religion are not the answer.**

**You have the word, miracles and prophecy words (Moses & Elijah) – but that is not enough. You Need Jesus!**

**When confronted with the glory of God and their weaknesses their first response was - what can we do to stay here? We do the same. God what can I build, what can I do – to be worthy of this grace & glory.**

**Jesus illuminates the word of God (rep. by Moses and Elijah)**

**Jesus is the fulfillment of all God had spoken and promised**

**Jesus alone leads us to the voice and presence of the Father.**

**Jesus brings the glory of God into our life – He alone!**

1. **God intends our mountain moments to be catalysts for movement.**

**They wanted to build shelters to say there and keep them there.**

* **We tend to make the mountain a memorial**

**A memory - Good times – that was cool – next.**

* **We tend to turn the mountain into a monument**

**Those were the good ol days – I wish it was like that still.**

* **But God intends the mountain to start a movement.**

**They said, “let’s build a place to stay.” This is the spot for the glory of God. They wanted to build a place Jesus was set to build a people.**

**\*\* The experiences where you grew the most can often keep you from growing further, if you always look at them as the best time of your life.**

**God uses the mountain moments to move us forward. But we are like, “let’s camp here! Stay here.”**

**That mountain top camp at 17 left thinking wow – powerful – I wish it could last… coming home crying. But I was never meant to stay on that mt. It launched me into greater ministry moments and experiences – it was a catalyst in my life. We are to leave the mt to walk in His mission!**

1. **Jesus left the mountain to walk to the cross**

**The transfiguration is an amazing reminder of the incarnation of Christ.**

**The one eternal God who left the throne to walk the earth – was willingly shrouded in humanity to bear a sinner’s cross.**

**John 10:17 I lay down my life – only to take it up again… 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. (Philippians 2:5-8)**

**Jesus could have stayed in heaven – he could have stayed on that mountain – but he willingly chose the cross.**

**Keep in mind it was just a week (Mark 9, Luke 9, Matt 17) since Jesus told them he was going to be rejected, suffer and die, and they would be persecuted too if they followed him... Sounds defeating.**

**At that moment He was saying it will happen – but Lest you forget… I am still in control. No matter what you hear – what you go thru – what trials you experience – I am in Control!!!**

**Cross bearers will be glory receivers. The cross is the path to the glory of God. One day those in Christ will see that glory too!**

**1 John 3:2 But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.**

**I am ready to follow Jesus up the mountain – Are you? I pray you climb it close to Jesus. But don’t stay there – the world needs the cross.**

**\*\* The Words of the Father are still for us today**

**7 “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”**

**Listen to Jesus, what is he saying – where is he leading you?**

**What is He asking you to do?**

**The first step is to follow – to receive him as LORD.**