

Listening to Jesus

Mark 9:2—9

Introduction

On the Mount of Transfiguration, the Father said, *“This is My beloved Son; listen to Him”* (**Mark 9:7**). Let’s unpack this verse today.

His Sonship Declared

Peter, James, and John were not at Jesus’ baptism. They would not have heard the Father say to Him, *“You are my beloved Son; with You I am well pleased”* (**Mark 1:11**). But they clearly heard Him now. It’s almost as if God is giving affirmation to Peter’s declaration that *Jesus is the Christ* (**Mark 8:29**) that he made just a few verses earlier. There’s no mistaking it now. Jesus *is* the Son of God.

Moses & Elijah Are Fellow Servants

But the Father was doing more than merely identifying Jesus as His Son. Moses and Elijah were there, and Peter had just asked if he *should put up three tents, one for Jesus and one for Moses and one for Elijah* (**Mark 9:5**). Luke tells us they were talking to Jesus about *His departure which He would accomplish at Jerusalem* (**Luke 9:31**). The Law and Prophets had both talked about His coming and that He would save the world. Jesus was the fulfillment of the Promise, going back as far as Adam and Eve. Were Moses and Elijah here to encourage Him, lend moral support? The point God was making is that of these three, the only One to focus your attention on is Jesus. Moses and Elijah were faithful servants, but that’s all they were, servants. Jesus is the Son.

The Glory of the Law and the Prophets

The Law and Prophets are held in high esteem. But they just talk about Jesus and point to Him. In and of themselves they have no glory of their own. Their glory and respect are derived from the Son. Because of that, God tells Peter, James, and John (and by extension, us) to listen to Jesus. Here are three good reasons to listen to Him.

His Words Have Power

First, His words have power. As the Son of God, Jesus is God. He has all the attributes of God, including being almighty. *For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell* (**Colossians 1:19**). At the time being, from the cradle to the grave, Jesus was on this earth in His state of humiliation. This means His glory and other divine attributes were hidden. He didn’t access them. Yet, His words still had power, as He worked by the Spirit of God. He spoke and the sick were healed. He spoke and the storm was stilled. He spoke and the demons were cast out. He spoke and the lame walked, the blind saw, and the dead lived. His words have power because they show us the way of salvation.

His Words Are Truth

The second reason to listen is that His words are truth. The world today says there is no ultimate truth. That's because the world doesn't know Jesus. No truer words than His have ever been spoken because His words are truth. And if you *know the truth, the truth will set you free, indeed (John 8:32)*.

His Words Are Life

Finally, His words are life. His words are life because *in Him was life, and the life was the light of men (John 1:4)*. So says John in his Gospel. God did not create death; death is the absence of life, the absence of God. When God created life, He spoke it into existence, just like He did with everything else. Jesus words are life, and they give life. *"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise" (Luke 23:43)*.

Word and Sacrament

We find Jesus' words in Scripture, contained in the Word of God. There are so many things He tells us. Let us listen to all of them. But let us now listen to these words: *"This is My body ... This is My blood" (Mark 14:22, 23)*. By eating and drinking His body and blood, we receive His power, truth, and life for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith.

*And the Peace of God,
Which surpasses all understanding,
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
