

Mark / Chapter 9

Short Summaries

In Mark 9, Jesus debates with the scribes and then gives a prediction about the future. Afterward, He and the disciples discuss who will be the greatest in the kingdom.

The disciples ask Jesus when he will return, and he says that only the Father knows. Jesus then talks about being baptized with fire and being thrown into hell.

Summaries

In Mark 9, Jesus teaches his disciples about how those who believe in him will be able to perform miracles, including casting out demons. He also predicts his own death and resurrection.

Jesus and the disciples travel to the Mount of Transfiguration, where Jesus is transfigured before them and speaks with Moses and Elijah. They return to the others and Jesus casts out a demon from a boy. The disciples argue over who is the greatest, and Jesus teaches them that to be great, they must serve others.

Application Questions

How can we apply Jesus' teaching on salt and light in our personal lives? (Mark 9:50)

What can we learn from Jesus' example of humility in taking a child in his arms? (Mark 9:33-37)

What does Jesus' prediction of his death a second time teach us about his knowledge of the future? (Mark 9:31-32)

What does the transfiguration of Jesus teach us about his divine nature? (Mark 9:2-3)

What does Jesus' statement that "whoever is not against us is for us" teach us about his attitude towards others? (Mark 9:38-41)

What does Jesus' warning against causing others to stumble teach us about his concern for others? (Mark 9:42-50)

What does Jesus' healing of the boy possessed by an impure spirit teach us about his power over evil? (Mark 9:14-29)

How can we apply Jesus' teaching on divorce in our personal lives? (Mark 9:51-52)

Exegetical Questions

What is the significance of Jesus' clothing becoming radiant?

What are the different ways that the Transfiguration can be interpreted?

What is the clouds symbolic of in the story?

What do scholars believe the mountain symbolizes in the story?

How do the predictions of Jesus' death affect the disciples?

Why is it important that Peter, James, and John are the only ones who witness the Transfiguration?

What does it mean that Elijah and Moses appear with Jesus?

How does the story of the Transfiguration help to explain Jesus' death and resurrection?

Observation Questions

What does Jesus' statement "Whoever is not against us is for us" reveal about his attitude toward those who are not his followers?

What does Jesus' statement "Causing to stumble" reveal about his attitude toward those who cause others to sin?

What does Jesus' healing of the boy possessed by an impure spirit reveal about his power over demonic forces?

What does Jesus' conversation with Moses and Elijah reveal about his role in salvation history?

What does the voice from the cloud "This is my Son, the Beloved. I take great delight in him!" (9:7) reveal about the relationship between the Father and the Son?

What does Jesus' prediction of his death a second time reveal about his human nature?

What does the transfiguration of Jesus reveal about his divine nature?

What does the transfiguration of Jesus reveal about his future glory?

Group Discussion Questions

What do you think it would have been like to be there?

What do you think it means that whoever is not against us is for us?

How does this event impact how we view Jesus?

What was the purpose of the transfiguration?

What does Jesus' predictions about His death teach us about His character?

Why do you think the disciples were told not to tell anyone about the transfiguration?

What can we learn from Jesus about how to deal with difficult situations and people?

How can we avoid causing others to stumble?