



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 114 - The Disciples' Roller Coaster Ride (Mark 9)

Time to See Jesus' Glory Again

Six days before Jesus had asked His disciples, "Who do you say I am?" Peter boldly confessed "You are the Christ." Now Peter, James and John climb a mountain with Jesus where they will see just what that means.

- Why do you think it was important for the three disciples to see Jesus in His divine glory before they saw Him suffer and die on the cross?
- What reassurance do you get from "seeing" Jesus' divine glory in His transfiguration and all His miracles in the Bible?
- What special comfort does Jesus' transfiguration offer us when we think of our coming death, or our loved ones who died in faith?

Six days earlier Jesus had asked, "Who do you say I am?" In His booming voice, God the Father answered: "This is My beloved Son."

- To whom does God the Father address His words?
- What response do you feel when He adds, "Listen to Him."

They still found it hard to listen to Him when Jesus continued predicting His suffering, death and resurrection in Jerusalem.

- What words of Jesus are hardest for you to hear and live?

Back down the Hill

What an up-and-down experience it must have been for the disciples. Every time they glimpse Jesus' glory and start thinking of His glorious earthly kingdom He comes right along with another prediction of His suffering and death. They are so bewildered by the roller coaster ride and so unwilling to listen to Him talk about His suffering and death that they always miss the *light at the end of the tunnel*: "after three days He will rise."

- Describe a time when you heard bad news and went into denial, refusing to accept it.
- How much does bad news shake you up? How do you try to deal with it?
- How do you keep balance between the bad and good days of your life?
- What *light at the end of the tunnel* do you hold onto when bad times come or fears rise in your mind?

The Disciples' Vain Dream

The disciples' discussion explains their reluctance to listen when Jesus talked about His suffering and death. That just doesn't fit into their plans. They wanted Jesus to be an earthly king with great power, glory and majesty—and they will be His assistants, His council.

- Why did Peter have problems with Jesus being a servant like when He washed the disciples' feet at the Last Supper?
- How many conflicts in your church revolve around an unwillingness to be servants to each other?
- What effect would it have on your congregation if you and your fellow members lived the life of servanthood that Jesus commands?
- Describe the powerful attraction your church would have for those on the outside if Christians truly lived as servants to the world and each other.