

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
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MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCES

Mark 9:1-13; Luke 9:28-36; Matthew 17: 1-13

How many of you here this morning has heard of the phrase “**Mountaintop Experiences?**” How many of you here today have had at some time in your life what you’d consider to be a “**mountaintop experience?**” They can take on many forms, moments where we consider ourselves to be “on top of the world”. From a spiritual standpoint, there are a LOT of people who are out there, seeking a “mountaintop experience” in their spiritual lives. There are a lot of preachers telling you to go out and find your “mountaintop experience” (health and wealth teaching). But is that the right way to approach our faith?

The disciples were reeling from the revelation that Jesus would suffer many things, be rejected, and be put to death but would rise again **(8:31)**. And even beyond that He issues a call to complete surrender and commitment to self-denial and complete obedience. Wouldn’t it be great if all of life could be lived on the mountaintop? But the truth is that life is not lived on the mountaintop. Life is primarily lived in the valley. It is from the mountaintop experiences that we gain the encouragement and strength to face the difficult times in the valleys of life that I will speak about next Sunday.

So first from **Mark 9** we see. . .

I. THE PURPOSE OF MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCES (9:1-2a)

This passage opens with the mention of a mountain. We are not told what mountain it is, but most scholars believe that it is Mount Hermon. This mountain rises some 9,200 feet above sea level. It is some twelve miles north of Caesarea-Philippi, and is near the place Jesus has been ministering. Mountains occupy a special place in the Word of God, for example mountains like....

Luke 9 in his account tells us that Jesus began to pray when they arrived at the top of the mountain. “Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain

II. THE PRIVILEGE OF MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCES (9:2b-8)

Luke tells us that the disciples are weary after the climb up the mount and evidently as Jesus prayed, they fell asleep (**Luke. 9:32**). When they awoke it was to a very spectacular and surreal scene before their eyes.

1. **Jesus is transfigured before them (vv. 2b-3)**
“transfigured” is the word that we get **metamorphosis** from.
2. **They saw the prophets Elijah and Moses (v. 4)**
3. **A cloud overshadowed them (7a)**
4. **A voice spoke to them (v. 7b).**

Do you remember when your mother use to ask you, “**Do you hear me?**” she was not asking about your ability to hear but about your willingness to obey. This was a command from the Father.

III. THE PERSPECTIVE OF MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCES (9:8)

Matthew in his account says that “When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. (7) But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." (**Matt 17:6-7**). Then in verse eight we read, “Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus with themselves.” **God allows us to have mountaintop experiences so we will get our eyes on Jesus.**

I praise God for the transfiguration of the Lord Jesus Christ. Nowhere in the Gospel record can His glory and identity be seen any clearer. Jesus was completely man, yet He was so divine that He could let His real glory shine like the sun. He is the fulfillment of everything Moses and Elijah, and all the Law and prophets, said or wrote. He brings that fulfillment to us! He brings the presence of God to our lives; He illuminates our lives; and one day, through our relationship with, we will rest for all eternity in the Shekinah glory of our risen, sovereign Lord.

It may that God has spoken to your heart in some area today. If He has, let me invite you to come before Him and take care of business.