

Home Group notes for the week following 11 February 2018

DIVINE GLORY

AS WE GATHER

From time to time Jesus shared aspects of His divinity /glory, spiritual power and authority with His disciples. Believers today need to understand and apply His spiritual truths in their own lives if they are to be what God wants them to be.

READING SCRIPTURE **Mark 9:2-9** [optional readings 2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6]

THINKING TOGETHER

Mark records that Jesus had been preparing His disciples for what was to happen to Him in Jerusalem. They were stunned and confused. Jesus knew they did not yet understand that true discipleship

- Surrenders self completely to Him
- Identifies with Him in suffering and death
- Follows Him obediently wherever He leads.

It takes faith to accept and practice this throughout life, but the reward of true discipleship is that the disciple becomes more like Jesus, and ultimately the suffering of denying self / dying to self is transformed into glory as Jesus shares His glory with His followers.

Mark tells us that Jesus took with Him Peter, James and John when He went up a mountain to pray

What do you know about the significance of mountains in the Jewish culture / faith?

Discuss [optional readings Exodus 24:12-18 1 Kings 19:18]

Why do you think Jesus chose these three disciples to go up the mountain with Him?

Discuss (Mark 9:2)

The word transfigured describes a change on the outside that comes from inside. Jesus allowed His glory to radiate through His whole being, thus revealing His divine nature (Mark 9:2-3)

[optional readings John 1:14 2 Peter 1:12-21]

Why was it important to Jesus that His chosen disciples witness this event – what was the significance for them of their experience? Discuss

Jesus knew that everything he said and did was within / in obedience to, the will of His Father, although He made His own decisions within this will.

Mark writes that Elijah and Moses appeared and spoke with Jesus before the voice of God was heard from the cloud which enveloped them (Mark 9:4 + 7)

What was the significance for Jesus of the appearance of Moses and Elijah? Discuss

Why was the affirmation and approval of God important to Jesus? Discuss

What is the significance of God's affirmation of Christ, and His command, to Christians today? Discuss (Mark 9:7 Romans 12:1-2 2 Corinthians 3:18)

Why was it important (and necessary) that the disciples did not speak of their experience when they returned to the group? Discuss (Mark 9:5-6 + 9)

IN CLOSING

Discipleship is not built on spectacular visions / mountaintop experiences, but on the inspired and unchanging word of God – Jesus the Word; His will, His kingdom and His glory.

PRAYER

Holy God,
on the Mount of Transfiguration you revealed your Son as the Christ.
Transform our lives in His image; write your law of love on our hearts,
and make us prophets of your shining splendour; through Jesus Christ
our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in
glory everlasting. Amen