

WEEK 19 DAY 1

Today's Reading: Luke 9:28-36

Have you ever been invited to a birthday party where a few people stayed to spend the night after everyone else left? Had Jesus been hosting a party, Peter, James and John would likely have been on the sleepover list. As it stood, they were chosen to be a part of something more extraordinary than a sleepover. Jesus chose to take them atop a mountain to pray and be captivated by His revealed glory.

The three disciples were not the only ones invited to what was later understood as the Mount of Transfiguration. Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus and foretold of His soon departure. Moses and Elijah were not equal with God, but they were faithful men who served Him and pointed to the ultimate Savior of the world. This mountaintop moment harkens back to Malachi 4, where the Israelites were told to remember the Law of Moses and look for Elijah before the Day of the Lord. And there they were, right before Jesus was crucified for the sins of the world.

However, Peter and the others needed help understanding. In fact, they were ready to set up camp and stay on the mountaintop, when the voice of God broke through the chasm of heaven and earth and declared Jesus was the holy and set-apart Son of God. The three disciples breathed in this experience and did not tell anyone what they saw until after Jesus had Resurrected.

Questions

1. What are some Scriptures in the Old Testament in which you've observed prophetic references to Jesus?
2. Have you ever, in thought or practice, placed something equal to God in your life?

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, You are so kind to reveal Yourself to us in Scripture and through the work of Christ. Help us not to put anything before You or equal to You.

**Bonus Reading: Matthew 17:1-13,
Mark 9:2-13, Malachi 4:4-5**

WEEK 19 DAY 2

Today's Reading: Luke 9:37-45

If Peter, James and John did not thoroughly learn their lesson on the Mount of Transfiguration, there were further opportunities. We'll read today how the disciples were witness to the power of the Son of God. When the disciples were not able to cast a demon out of a sick child, the father asked Jesus for healing, and the disciples were confused. Though they had been able to cast out demons in the Lord's name before, some situations are reserved for God alone. Perhaps, like this father, you've faced a situation only God can handle.

When God performs miracles only He can accomplish, it brings glory to Him and bolsters faith in us. After Jesus performed the miracle read about today, "all were astonished at the majesty of God," and "they were all marveling at everything he was doing." So, too, should our response be to worship God in awestruck wonder.

Jesus is always working for His glory and our good, even when we don't understand what He is doing. In Luke 9:44, we learn that Jesus told the disciples He would be arrested and die, and yet they did not understand Him. Sometimes, we need help perceiving what the Lord is doing. May we rest in knowing that Jesus has power over life and death, and He has power over whatever we are facing today. Cry out and ask Him to do what only He can.

Question

1. What is something only the Lord can accomplish in your life today? Ask Him to move in a miraculous way.

PRAYER:

Lord, You alone can satisfy my needs. Please help me to find complete satisfaction in You.

Bonus Reading: Mark 9:14-29

WEEK 19 DAY 3

Today's Reading: Luke 9:46-50

As we make our way through amazing passages chronicling the miracles of Jesus, it might seem odd to read in Luke 9:46 that an argument broke out among His disciples about who was "the greatest." Jesus was in the unique position to hear the disciples' words and discern their innermost thoughts. Our hearts often long for self-advancement and success, but Christ calls us to something more significant: humility.

Using the example of a child, Jesus called the disciples to humble themselves like a child and call others to receive Him. In this culture, children were not thought of very highly, and they were expected to submit to those in authority over them. Jesus was the greatest among them, and the disciples should have been striving after Him rather than their own selfish gain.

Similarly, in the following account, the disciples were upset that another group was casting out demons in Christ's name. We have a little information about this other group, but Jesus told His followers that they were not against the work of Christ, so they are on the same side as the disciples. When we humble ourselves and put others before us, we can advance the kingdom of God and cheer on others as they do the same without wondering if we are as good as they.

Questions

1. What are some areas of your life where you try to pursue your own status instead of God's glory?
2. With whom do you compare your walk of faith? How can you work not to see them as competition but as fellow followers of Christ?

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, You are the greatest, always and forever. Humble me so I may seek to glorify You alone. In Jesus' name, amen.

**Bonus Reading: Matthew 10:40,
Mark 9:38-41, Matthew 18:1-6**

WEEK 19 DAY 4

Today's Reading: Luke 9:51-56

In today's reading, Jesus set His face toward Jerusalem, toward Calvary. When Jesus sent people ahead of Him to the village, the Samaritans rejected Him and refused to let Him enter. This was likely because of their prejudice against the Jewish people and because Jesus was headed to the center of Jewish culture and religion.

Just like on the Mount of Transfiguration, James and John did not fully understand what God was doing. Possibly fueled by their own prejudice against Samaritans, they offered to call down fire from heaven to consume the village. If Jesus wanted to punish this village, He could have quickly done so Himself. He did not need His disciples to protect Him and promptly told them as much. Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem to die for the sins of the world, including Samaritans. Jesus was headed to save people, not destroy them.

Even now, God may send us to places that reject us and Him. The Gospel has enemies, but Scripture tells us that truth will prevail!

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, thank You for your mercy. Help us share the Good News with others.

**Bonus Reading: Isaiah 50:7,
Romans 3:29, Colossians 1:27**

WEEK 19 DAY 5

Today's Reading: Luke 9:57-62

Though glancing in the rearview mirror while driving is important, we will crash our car if we spend too much time doing so. There is a similar spiritual paradigm for the believer. Jesus calls us remember the life from which we've been rescued, but keep our eyes on our new life and the purpose we have in Him.

Jesus knows when our bold proclamations don't match our inner commitment. To be fair, as humans, we don't have the ability to fully follow Christ, apart from the Spirit's working in our life. Jesus Himself was fully reliant on the Spirit to navigate His time on earth and follow the will of the Father. When we try to serve God in our own strength, we'll fail. We must follow the example set by Jesus, especially in the difficulties of life.

As followers of Christ, we've been told to "go and proclaim the kingdom of God" which will, at times, come at a sacrifice. If we long for what we have left behind, Jesus says we are not fit for His kingdom. Christ's kingdom is comprised of people who leave everything behind to follow Him daily.

Question

1. What are you holding on to that could keep you from following Christ completely?

PRAYER:

Father, help me look forward to what You have called me to. Give me strength to follow You wholeheartedly and not look back.

Bonus Reading: Matthew 8:18-22