

Mark my words!

Life Group notes

Selected scriptures: Mark 9:1-29; Luke 9:28; John 15:4-5.

1. Read Mark 9:1-13. In which ways has Mark emphasised the identity of Jesus so far in his gospel. How does this story of the transfiguration add to Mark's message of who Jesus is? What was the significance of the cloud?
2. In which way does Peter try to "bottle the moment"? What moments of your life would you like to "bottle"? Peter didn't know what to say, so he started talking anyway? Do you have any examples of this in your life?
3. Peter wanted to stay on the mountain, but there was work to be done in the valley. Why should authentic worship always lead you to reach out to a hurting world? (Acts 1:8; Isaiah 6:1-6 as examples).
4. Read Mark 9:14-29. What caused the disciples' lack of authority over the evil spirit? Compare this with Mark 6:6-13. What other questions does this incident raise in your minds?
5. Samuel Chadwick (a well-known Methodist leader at the turn of the 20th century): "The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayer-less studies, prayer-less work, prayer-less religion. He laughs at our toil, he mocks at our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray." Has this also been your experience?
6. Read Mark 9:21-24. We are not given an insight into the tone of voice or facial expressions that Jesus used —we just have words on a page— but how do you imagine this conversation went? Does the father's words "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" resonate with you in some way? Please share.
7. Despite the man's lack of faith, what one thing did he get right?
8. Steve left us with two thoughts:
 - ~ We can only win the battles in the valley and be fruitful in serving Jesus if we first encounter him on the mountain top.
 - ~ If we encounter him on the mountain top, then this is to empower us to serve him in the valley

Take time to pray about this challenge in your groups.