

How do I do that?

I think this is the key:

Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Mark 9:7

At the heart of the glory of God is his love for his Son, and the disciples were enveloped by it and surrounded by it as well.

But a day was soon coming where Jesus would be forsaken by His Father.

So when you see Jesus Christ losing the embrace of God's love on the cross, and know that he was doing it for you.

To that degree of how deeply it moves you will you also begin to experience your own embrace by God.

- *If you have accessed the presence of God through helplessness,*
- *and you have given Him your most precious things,*
- *and if you see me losing everything so you'll gain*

To that degree when you're in the valley of the shadow of death you'll wait, you'll trust, you'll handle it with a sweetness and softness that belies human understanding.

And it will make you great.



The story of the King... who came to serve.

Part 27:

How the Highs and the Lows Can Make You Great Mark Chapter 9 verses 2-9

Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. 3 His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. 4 And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Mark 9:2-4
What we learn here: Jesus, unlike Moses, doesn't reflect God's glory, He is God's glory.

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. Hebrews 1:3

This means there is no middle ground with Jesus.

Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Mark 9:7
Here's the amazing thing, God's raw presence shows up, God's glory and they didn't die.

Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. Mark 9:8

In other words Elijah and Moses can do nothing for you in the presence of God.

Jesus is not just the God on the other side of the gap. Jesus is the bridge over the gap into God's very presence.

I. Jesus is the object of our worship

Jesus off the Mount of Transfiguration

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Mark 9:9

The point is that no one would believe their report until after the resurrection.

They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what "rising from the dead" meant. And they asked him, "Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"

Mark 9:10, 11

Do you know what this is about?

Remember in Chapter 8 when Peter announces Jesus is the Messiah? But proceeds to rebuke Jesus for talking about dying?

Here the disciples get a little cagey with their question-
"Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"

Because in the OT book of Malachi it tells us that Elijah would return before the great day of the LORD. So they're thinking, "Hey we just saw Elijah up there, day of the LORD, right? So take over Jesus. Enough of this talk about suffering!"

Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected? But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him."

Mark 9:12,13

II. Jesus is our model of becoming great through suffering

The Conflict With Evil

When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. ...¹⁶ "What are you arguing with them about?" he asked.¹⁷ A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸ Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

Only one person is this entire scene admits that he doesn't have what it takes.

And in a very memorable interchange that follows:

²¹ Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. ²² "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."²³ "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."²⁴ Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "**I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!**"

What do we learn here? Helplessness, not holiness, is the first step to access the power of God.

Second point is much harder. You've got to **bring to Jesus your most valued possessions.**

Why do you suppose that is so important in getting through the journey of life?

Because if any of these precious things in your life are the ultimate source of your security then when things go wrong and they will go wrong, you will grow despondent.

Only as you trust him with your greatest treasure then and only then do these things become something we can enjoy as part of God's blessing in our life. Not our source of worship.