

The Story of Jesus

Part 21: Why should we listen to Jesus?

Mark 9:2-13 - [watch online](#)

Summary: If we learn to listen to Jesus we can find clarity and purpose for our lives.

Main Ideas:

[01:02] Christianity is based solely on the identity of Jesus of Nazareth.

[02:09] The eyewitnesses of Jesus' life witnessed something that changed their lives.

[04:44] The spiritual world is as real as the physical... and Jesus is the true king of both.

[07:04] Jesus is the focal point and completion of God's plan to restore humanity.

[09:03] In Jesus the divine and the human are perfectly and fully brought together.

[13:07] If Jesus is who he said he is, the most logical thing to do is to listen to him.

[18:23] When we discover who Jesus really is and choose to listen to him we find clarity in our lives now.

Invitation:

[13:15] Learn his voice:

- Read Sermon on the Mount and/or the Gospels

[14:21] Ask, "What do you need to listen to Jesus about?"

Discussion Questions:

1. Pick one of the main ideas that stood out to you and rephrase it in your own words.
2. How do the implications of Jesus being both fully human and fully divine impact your understanding of his teachings and actions?
3. Read John 10:27-30. What stands out to you in light of this week's message?
4. What does it mean to you to "listen to Jesus" in your daily life? How do you think you could discern his voice amidst all the other noise?
5. How can your group pray with you this week?

IN: There is more to you than you know. There is more to your life than you know. There is a meaning, a purpose, and a reality that you were born to experience.

There is a clarity that lets us see through the fog of our everyday lives. That can guide and anchor us in the most stressful times.

It brings joy and peace in the most hopeless of situations.

And the source is, surprise! JESUS.

But... It's so much better and bigger and real than some feel good religious mumbo jumbo...

We are invited to look behind the curtain of our routines and stresses and worries and fears...and into the very heart of God...

Think I'm over selling it? Only one way to find out... Let's talk about it together.

WE: Christianity is unique. Unlike any other belief system...

At its core...

- Is not a set of dogmatic beliefs, rituals, traditions...

Christianity is based solely on the identity of Jesus of Nazareth

- Not just his teachings/philosophy / example / legacy
- But who he actually is

And it's out of that identity that everything else flows...

It's why we listen to/follow his teachings... it's why we base our lives on him and his life... it's why we sing songs about him, talk about him, pray to him, worship him.

2000 years ago people saw something that changed how they viewed Jesus and at the same time changed how they saw reality, their lives, and the cosmos...

Here is how some of the eyewitnesses (Peter/John) described a turning point for them... **John 1:14** and **2 Peter 1:16-18**

The eyewitnesses of Jesus' life witnessed something that changed their lives.

So what are Peter and John talking about? And why should what happened to them 2000 years ago have any weight on what we do today?

Great Questions...

GOD: Mark recorded Peter's experiences with Jesus... at turning point of story Jesus reveals that he is in fact what his disciples were hoping he was... the Messiah... the chosen King of God.

But he's not what they were expecting... isn't a military/political/religious king

- He's not going to conquer the Romans.

He is going to suffer and die and rise again bringing true life...

- True victory... Conquering death itself with his resurrection.

And he told them if they truly want to follow him then they need to follow his way...

- Choosing to give up their own way
- Choosing to die both physically and metaphorically for him and his Good news.

Some very heavy stuff... arrogant stuff unless he can back it up.

And now 3 of the disciples are about to experience something that they will use as proof later that he can back it up...

Mark 9:2-8 [Each time a verse is there we can just have the slide of vv. 2-8]

V.2 Transformed = from inside out. Still Jesus but something different/more...

V.3 White clothes always a feature in appearances of spiritual/heavenly beings... would have been a clue for original readers of what was happening.

- Like if we said... and he was wearing a helmet with horns (Viking) Or he had a halo and wings (angel)
- So super white clothes = heavenly.

The point is that no natural explanation will work for what the disciples saw...

They are experiencing what we in the post-enlightenment/scientific revolution west have forgotten but what other cultures around the world still know...

The spiritual world is as real as the physical.. But they discovered even more... Jesus is the true king of both.

V.4 1st... How do they know who it is? Name tags? Or like kids drawing with labeled arrows?

- Somehow knew

But why these 2 guys?

In the Jewish Scriptures both had been tasked with continuing God's mission of restoring his people back to himself.

P,J & J are seeing that Jesus is both continuing and completing this mission.

Elijah had been one of the greatest prophets... pointing people back to God.

Moses had been Israel's greatest prophet, the one through whom God had given his law to Israel.

The law Jesus said he came to fulfill. Not only that, he is showing he is the fulfillment of God's promise to Moses in

Deut 18:15-18

Jesus is the one Moses and Elijah were pointing to.

What are they doing? Other accounts say they are talking about his upcoming days and execution in Jerusalem.

- My guess? Jesus is explaining to these guys what their role had been and that now it is finally completed...
- They are getting to see what they had hoped for come to reality.

Either way... the symbolism is... Jesus is more than another in a line of prophets...

- Moses and Elijah prepared the way... Jesus is finishing it.

Jesus is the focal point and completion of God's plan to restore humanity.

But, understandably, all of this is lost on Peter...

V.5-6 Eyewitness account... no one would make up such a bumbling nonsense response.

Peter is simply doing the best he can to rise to the occasion, caught up in a unique and incomprehensible situation

- "How about we make shelters so you all can stay longer... it's good we are here so we can do this for you."

Now I'd say this could mean Jesus is an alien and they just misinterpreted it except for this part...

V.7-8 In the OT... the presence of God was described as a cloud and now...

God has pulled the curtain back.

- The separation between the spiritual world and the physical is removed and the disciples' eyes are opened to the reality of God's kingdom...
- And even though Jesus might not do things the way they expected... he really is the true Messiah and King.

"This is my son"... not physical offspring...

- He is of me, he has my authority, he is the expression of who I AM.

They are seeing Jesus for who truly is... 100% human and at the same time 100% God.

In Jesus the divine and the human are perfectly and fully brought together.

And b/c of that... "Listen to him." = Do what he says.

V.9-10 Jesus- "Ok guys... Let me help you process... remember the Son of Man in Daniel? (**Daniel 7:13-14**)

I told you I'm him. You just saw proof. But don't tell anyone until after I rise from the dead b/c then you'll understand."

And we might be quick to judge that they didn't understand "rise from the dead"... but we know the end of the story...

They've just had their minds melted... and in their thinking there was no resurrection of the dead until God raised everyone at the end of time.

V.11-13 Disciples... "Jesus what is happening... what are we caught up in?"

- "Was that just the coming of Elijah?"
- And we say "what now?"

There was a teaching among the religious scribes that Elijah would come back at the fulfillment of Israel's history... based on the last verses in the OT... **Malachi 4:4-6**

"Is it all happening now, Jesus?"

Jesus- "Oh that? That wasn't the coming of Elijah... We're even closer than you think... we're already past that... Elijah has already come (John the B)

- And just like John suffered and was executed... I will too.

John the Baptist has finished his job... All that is left now is for the Messiah to play his role in his suffering, D&R

“Yes the fulfillment of all of Israel's history is here... the Promised One is here to restore humanity back to God... I’m going to bring it... but it’s not going happen the way you expected.

Transition:

Now normally I would pull out a core nugget of teaching that we can apply to our lives to be more like Jesus.

- Something that would inspire us, or bother us hopefully just enough to make us think and evaluate somethings

But... the implications of what happened on that mountain are too big for something like that.

P, J, & J saw the curtain between heaven and earth pulled back and went to their graves sticking to this amazing but unbelievable story.

- 3 of the accounts of Jesus’ life attest to the story
- Peter and John separately attest to the story.
- In reality, just with those, that’s 5 ancient texts that attest to this event happening.

What does that mean?

- Jesus didn’t just say he was bringing the KoG
- He didn’t just think we was the Messiah
- Jesus really is God in a body and the culmination of God’s eternal plan to reunite his children to himself.

Which means... If Jesus really is who he said he is it only makes sense to do what God’s voice from the cloud told the disciples to do... Listen to him.

If Jesus is who he said he is, the most logical thing to do is to listen to him.

YOU: Learn his voice: Read Sermon on the Mt. Matt. 5:1-7:29 and/or the Gospels (M,M,L,J) through as the accounts they were designed to be.

- John 10:10-11; 27-30

When we know his heart/voice we know what sounds like him and what doesn’t.

- We know what actions/choices are following his love and aren’t
- We know which voice in our head is lying and which is telling the truth.

And ask... **What do you need to listen to Jesus about?**

Maybe you don’t feel like you and your life matter much...

- What does Jesus say about how much you are actually worth?
- He personally created you on purpose
- He’ll leave 99 others just to find you
- He is for you and loves you so much so that he died for you
- Listen to him

Maybe you're trapped in resentment and anger...

- He says life is hard but he is in it with us
- He says forgive your enemies... how? By doing good for them and praying for them.
- He said he has forgiven us... so we are free to forgive others.
- He said he will make things right one day so we don't have to punish others by holding onto our anger (which only hurt us)
- Listen to him

Maybe you're fearful of the unknown future...

- He says we don't have to fear b/c he knows us and is always with us
- He says we don't have to stress and worry b/c he's in control and we can simply practice trusting and relying on him
- That whatever happens, nothing, not even death, will pull us away from him.
- Listen to him

Maybe you're overwhelmed by guilt and regret...

- He says your sins are forgiven
- He says he doesn't condemn you... he will never push you away... you are truly free
- Listen to him

Maybe there's something going on in your life, your choices, that you know is taking you away from the path of love

- Choices that are hurting others/yourself
- You want to turn but you're afraid it's too late or you're afraid of the 'real you' being discovered.
- He says you are loved, you don't have to fear punishment, give up your own way, take up your cross and follow me... and you will find the life you are actually looking for
- You don't have to have everything figured out perfectly. He will guide you in his perfect timing and way...
- Just... Listen to him

And maybe for you... now is the time to listen to his invitation he gives all of us... Follow me.

- To choose to trust that he is who he said he is... that he loves you like he said he does...
- And that he can do what he said he can do... forgive us, restore us, give us true life and relationship with God himself... now and forever
- Listen to him... and tell him "Yes... I choose to trust you as my savior and God. I choose to follow you as my king."

Maybe you're not there yet, but you're curious... then listen to him when he says... "Come and see."

- Explore your questions and doubts
- Investigate
- Be patient b/c he is patient with you.

WE: There is a truer reality behind what we can see and observe.

Jesus claimed to be king of both... the seen and unseen world.

Claimed to be the one to bring them together... to be the one who brought and still brings heaven to earth.

This account shows us that this isn't some fluffy philosophical/religious idea.

Jesus, 100% God and 100% human, came to restore and save his most prized creation... us.

And to enjoy him and the life he offers forever... we simply need to listen to him.

I'll end by paraphrasing scholar NT. Wright... Each of us is invited to do what the heavenly voice said: Listen to Jesus, because he is God's beloved son.

And as we learn to listen, even if sometimes, like Peter, we get scared and say all the wrong things, we will discover that his love, power, and glory creeps up on us unawares, strengthening us, as it did the disciples, for the road ahead.

When we discover who Jesus really is and choose to listen to him we find clarity in our lives now.