

Series - Mark: The Untold Story of Jesus

Week 25: Hope & Presence Part 2

Passage: Mark 9:9-13



Conversation Starter:

Peter, James, and John had just witnessed the transfiguration on the mountaintop where they saw the perfect unity between the law (Moses), the prophets (Elijah), and Christ. Coming down from the mountain, Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen until Jesus had risen from the dead. *What question(s) were the disciples struggling with? Why do you think Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone about what they had seen until He had risen from the dead?*

Today Dwain taught that we are to **live into what we know**, living resilient lives that exemplify hope in the midst of circumstances. The disciples asked Jesus a question about what they had heard from the teachers of the law (verse 11). Jesus responded to this question of human speculation with the written Word (verse 12). *In light of human speculation vs what is written in God's Word, how do we, as resilient Christians, stay "fired up" in faith? What can you do to live a life that does not "shrink back" during difficult times, when we are not having a "mountaintop" experience? Since Jesus has been resurrected, what does that mean for us?*

Read Romans 5:1-5. As Dwain mentioned, we have a hard time focusing on future hope, when there are present distractions. *What present distractions are keeping you from living in the sure hope described in Romans 5? Are you taking those to God in prayer? If not, what's holding you back?*

Andy Davis states in his article Surprised by Hopelessness that "Christians know exactly what to hope for. We've been clearly instructed by God's prophetic Word, and therefore, we should be radiant with hope—an unshakable conviction that the future is indescribably bright. The world is "without hope and without God" (Eph. 2:14); so when Christians radiate hope, the world notices and is moved to ask us to give a reason for the hope within us (1 Pet. 3:15)." *Do you agree with is perspective? Can you think of a time in your life where you have seen this demonstrated?*

Close your time in prayer, asking God to help you focus on Jesus' victory over sin at the cross and His resurrection that beat back the power of death.

Resources to dig deeper:

[Surprised by Hopelessness](#) by Andy Davis