

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for June 4, 2017

Putting the Pieces Together
Mark 9:9-13

I. The prohibition (9:9)

And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

A. The charge

And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen,

- “And as they were coming down the mountain”
 - They = Jesus, Peter, James and John
 - They were coming down the mountain after the transfiguration
 - The inner three had just witnessed a preview of the power and the glory of the Kingdom to come
- “he charged them to tell no one what they had seen”
 - Jesus did not want this glorious preview publicized
 - Formerly, people were told not to talk about healings and miracles
 - In a similar fashion, Jesus charged these three disciples to tell no one what they had seen
 - Why did Jesus give them this charge?

B. The concession

until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

- “until”
 - Jesus allows for a time when this event could be declared and made known
 - Jesus wanted these three disciples to wait until after His own resurrection from the dead
 - Why?
 - Jesus did not want them preaching without the full understanding and picture of the Messiah and His work, including the Cross
 - This has been proposed as the reason for Jesus’ prohibition of others speaking after being healed by Him

- Jesus did not want the message to go forth about Him as the miracle worker; instead, Jesus desired the gospel message to go forth, which included the cross
- Then, the disciples would be sent forth to preach (Matthew 28:18-20)

II. The pondering (9:10-11)

10 So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean. 11 And they asked him, "Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?" 12 And he said to them, "Elijah does come first to restore all things.

A. The question of resurrection (9:10)

10 So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean.

- "So they kept the matter to themselves"
 - The inner three obeyed Jesus' words and did not tell others immediately
- "questioning what this rising from the dead might mean"
 - The inner three discussed how this "rising from the dead" might work out
 - For the disciples, Jesus was being a downer!
 - They did not want Jesus to talk about His death after they saw the vision of glory
- Disciples discomfort with Jesus' death leads to curious and clever question

B. The question of restoration (9:11)

11 And they asked him, "Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?" 12 And he said to them, "Elijah does come first to restore all things."

- "And they asked him, 'Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?'"
 - After the focus upon Christ's rising from the dead, the disciples come up with a question for Jesus
 - Their question revolves upon what they have heard the scribes say, not necessarily what the Scripture says
 - Their question focuses on the future ministry of Elijah
 - Perhaps they had the scribes commentary about Malachi 4 on their minds?
 - Malachi 4:1-3 describes the healing and dominant victory of God's people
 - Malachi 4:4 demands the necessity of obedience to God's Law

-Malachi 4:5-6 “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. 6 And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

- “And he said to them, ‘Elijah does come first to restore all things.’”
 - Jesus answers the disciples in the affirmative
 - Jesus appears to back up the answer with additional information
 - Elijah will indeed restore all things
 - This appears to confirm the allusion to Malachi 4:5-6
 - Jesus affirms that God’s plan is still in place
- Disciples’ confusion remains since Jesus will suffer and die despite Elijah’s future ministry bringing restoration???
- Question: How do the death of Jesus and the restoring ministry of Elijah fit together?

III. The parallel (9:12-13)

And how is it written of the Son of Man that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt? 13 But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him.”

A. The suffering Son (9:12)

And how is it written of the Son of Man that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt?

- “And how is it written of the Son of Man”
 - Jesus brings up another piece of the puzzle that needs to be considered
 - First, notice Jesus’ source for this puzzle piece is the Word, not scribes
 - “And how is it written”
 - The disciples needed to remember what else the Word says about the Son of Man
- “that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt?”
 - He already informed the disciples of the death and resurrection of the Messiah back in Mark 8 at Caesarea Philippi
 - Jesus stated that shocking truth “plainly” for the disciples
 - After the glorious transfiguration, Jesus brings their focus back to the suffering mission of the Messiah
 - Jesus increases the “dilemma” by stating the truth of the Word

- Elijah will come and restore all things (Malachi 4:5-6)
- The Son of Man will come, suffer and die (Isaiah 53:3)
 - Isaiah 53:3 “He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”
- Jesus identifies the classic differentiation among Old Testament prophecies in reference to the comings of Christ
 - 1st coming = suffering (Isaiah 53; Psalm 22)
 - 2nd coming = established kingdom (Isaiah 9)

B. The suffering seer (9:13)

13 But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him.”

- “But I tell you that Elijah has come”
 - Jesus makes the definitive statement that Elijah has come
 - Based upon Matthew 17:13, this is a reference to John the Baptist
 - Matthew 17:12-13 “‘But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands.’ 13 Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.”
- “and they did to him whatever they pleased”
 - Jesus states that Elijah/John the Baptist were persecuted
 - Also, the people did not recognize John the Baptist as Elijah
 - Matthew 17:12 “But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands.”
 - Though John the Baptist dressed like Elijah and preached that the nation must repent and return to Yahweh, the people did not repent or listen
 - Instead, John the Baptist was arrested and murdered
- “as it is written of him”
 - Jesus references the suffering of Elijah in the OT as a picture or illustration of what John the Baptist experienced in his own ministry
 - Elijah called Israel to return from Baal to Yahweh
 - John the Baptist called Israel to repent from her sin
 - Elijah was threatened and persecuted by Jezebel

-John the Baptist was imprisoned by Herod and killed on behalf of Herodias

-John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah but suffered and died

-How much more is Jesus destined to suffer and die?

-Not only is He following in the example of John the Baptist due to a rebellious nation

-He is also submitting Himself obediently to the will of God in the Scriptures

-Christ had to come first to offer Himself for the sins of many (Hebrews 9:28)