

Refrigerator Notes 15 February 2015

'This Magic Moment'

Mark 9 2-9 (DPC)

1. Most people have difficulty understanding the meaning of the transfiguration of Jesus, the experience is outside their frame of reference, just as it was for the disciples
2. Transfiguration is defined as a metamorphosis, which is a change in appearance, character, condition or function – if this is the case the question becomes why?
3. Often times, in order to interrupt a passage of scripture, it requires one to read what came before the verse and/or what comes after the verse – our key scripture is located in v.1, which many people overlook its significance
4. "I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come to power"
5. When we replay the story, Jesus is wanting to get away from the crowd to prayer, so he takes His inner circle (Peter, John, and James) up the mountain
6. As Jesus was praying, scripture does not tell us what He was praying about, but one has to wonder if Jesus' thoughts may have covered His impending death in Jerusalem
7. While Jesus is praying, we are told when the disciples woke from their slumber, they saw Jesus being transfigured
8. The story goes on to tell us that the disciples saw Moses and Elijah having a conversation with Jesus – but again the scripture does not tell us about this conversation
9. The disciples are now eye witnesses to several things that are transpiring all at once, (1) coming of the power of God's kingdom, (2) Moses who represents the Law and Elijah, who represent the prophets are passing the torch from the OT to the NT covenant – Grace
10. Like all special moments that are 'magic' (never to be repeated again), it is the visions of prayer and gifts of exceptional grace that God bestows on us at that one moment as it passes into time
11. Scripture does not tell us why Peter is asking the Lord shall he build three shelters – but that instance the disciples hear God speak "This is my Son whom I have chosen – listen to Him"
12. The third thing that happened on the mountain that the disciples were told that they needed to listen to God's Son
13. People who have had near death experiences talk in terms of seeing the bright light and being ushered into God's Kingdom – transformation of their impending death and the glory that lies beyond it (surely a magic moment for them – never to be repeated)
14. Undoubtedly, the purpose of the transfiguration of Christ, at least in part – is about Jesus's heavenly glory for the living to witness (the inner circle)
15. Yet, the disciples were told to tell no one what happened on the mountain – just like those who have had near death experiences cannot keep from telling others
16. When you experience God's glory or the touch of God – You got to tell someone, but the word for us who are living is that we need to obey Jesus' Word if we expect to see the Kingdom of God come to power