

**Powered By Jesus:**

**Living the Abundant Spirit-Filled Life**

**Part 10: “What Is Jesus Really Up To?”**



**Mark 9:1-12 and 9:43-50**

*We all have an image of who Jesus is and what he is doing, speaking, leading right now—even if our image is vague and undefined. Jesus pulled aside Peter, James, and John for a privileged look behind the curtain to see who he really is in the spiritual realms. They saw him interacting with Moses, demonstrating that the Law of God still matters; they saw him engaging with Elijah, representing the corrective voice of the prophet calling us to obedience. God’s voice then spoke from the cloud saying, “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” (Mark 9:7). Through the supernaturally transfiguration of Jesus, God showed that He not only desires to forgive our sins, but to also change us into people who follow Jesus into everything God wants for us.*

### **So What? What am I supposed to DO with this?**

- Meet with Jesus with **brokenness**. Literally get on your knees.
- **Choose** how serious you will be in stepping into the **corrective spirit** of Jesus. Will you **follow him** into this space?
- On your knees, **listen** for him. (Take a while. Repeat.)

---

**12 Minutes to Abundance:** Each day this week, Monday through Friday, commit yourself to a 12-minute block of time in God’s Word and in prayer. Attach it to something else you already do on a regular basis—getting ready in the morning, eating a meal, or commuting to and from work or school or the gym, etc. Give six minutes to the scriptures below, and six minutes to pray and listen to God. Check out our **Daily Six** video series and come along with Pastor Chris each morning as he does his own reading from these texts:

<https://www.youtube.com/@mounthopechurch1651>

**Monday, March 10 - “The Truth About Marriage”**

---

**Read slowly and carefully Mark 10:1-12**

When it comes to some of our most important of human relationships such as marriage, how soft is your heart? Regardless of your marital status, do you guard your heart carefully to ensure that it never becomes hardened?

When confronted by the Pharisees about what God’s Law has to say about marriage and divorce, Jesus gave an answer that would likely surprise most modern Christians. He affirmed that God has indeed provided a pathway to divorce for people who have decided they do not like their marriage (see **Deuteronomy 24:1-4**). But God also says elsewhere, “*I hate divorce*” (**Malachi 2:16**). Divorce was likely not so commonplace in first century Judaism as in our culture, but it was certainly acceptable. But Jesus—as he often did with the black and white teachings of the Law—explained the reason God gave these provisions: The hardness of our hearts. It is never God’s will that we harden ourselves in painful relationships, but to rather trust the supernatural work of God bringing two people together, guarding our hearts to “*not break faith with the wife of your youth*” (**Malachi 2:15**).

**Read and pray Malachi 2:15-16** to ask God to help you guard your heart. Try praying it this way: “*God, I believe you make two people one in flesh and spirit through marriage. In my [future or present] marriage, help me to guard my spirit that I not break faith. I trust you for your help. In Jesus’ name!*”

---

**Tuesday, March 11 - “How to Go to Heaven”**

---

**Read slowly and carefully Mark 10:13-31**

Do you know how to get to heaven? Are you certain? Have you done all that is required? Or is there something else God wants from you?

Jesus explained that we can only receive God’s kingdom when we trust God like a small child. When asked by a rich young man how to inherit eternal life, Jesus discerned he was looking for a list of “to do’s.” Jesus responded that so long as he was seeking to “do” things to enter God’s kingdom, there would always be something he would be incapable of—in his case selling all his possessions for the Lord and giving them to the poor. The disciples were baffled, but Jesus told them that whatever is impossible with man is possible with God (**Mark 10:27**). Just like the little child, we should trust that God is the only one who can save us for eternity and to lead us to God’s kingdom.

**Read and pray Psalm 28:7-9** to declare your trust in God’s salvation. Try praying it this way: “*God, you are the one who is strong in my life. Where I am weak, I put my trust in you, and I know that I will be helped. This brings me great joy to rest in you. You are my fortress and I know you will save me. I thank you for my inheritance in you, my shepherd. In Jesus’ name!*”

## Wednesday, March 12 – “Death Leads to Life”

---

### Read slowly and carefully [Mark 10:32-34](#)

Would you lay down your life for Jesus? Would you give everything you have to him? What are the limits to how much of you he can have?

It is uncommon to humans to purposely choose death over life. In [Mark 8:35](#), Jesus told his disciples that to save our lives, we must lose them. In most cases this is not a literal laying down of our physical lives—except where martyrdom would be our fate—but rather a dying to our selfish wills and choosing to give God full control of our lives. But literal death is exactly what Jesus chose on our behalf. Even as he would lay down his life for us, God already had a new life planned for both Jesus and us. The literal resurrection of Jesus would open the door to the spiritual resurrection of our inner lives.

**Read and pray [Mark 8:34-38](#)** to surrender your life to the Lord. Try praying it this way: *“God, I choose to deny myself and follow you in whatever self-sacrificial manner you would call me to. Lead me to understand what about my life I should lay down before you. I do not want to cling to my own way, but rather I want to give everything I am to you and the Gospel. I want you to be proud of me when you come in your glory. In Jesus’ name!”*

## Thursday, March 13 – “It’s Not About You (Or Me)”

---

### Read slowly and carefully [Mark 10:35-45](#)

What is your goal in life? Who do you want to become? What status or position of power is important to you? What does God need to do in your life to achieve your goals? If you could ask Him for one thing, what would it be?

James and John approached Jesus with a request to be given high positions in his coming kingdom. Believing that Messiah would become a conquering political king, they asked to be placed in the number two and number three positions of power under him. His response was not harsh, but gracious, asking them if they were prepared to *“drink the cup”* that was in front of him, his suffering and death we read about yesterday ([Mark 10:38](#)). Even though they would indeed later in life be so submitted to Jesus as to actually suffer martyrdom, for now, Jesus understood their pride and arrogance was still

untamed. To truly sit in a position of spiritual power in God’s kingdom, servanthood and placing oneself last is a prerequisite.

**Read and pray [Ephesians 2:4-10](#)** to recognize that we have already been seated with Christ in spiritual authority. Try praying it this way: *“God, thank you that you have such great love and mercy for me. Through your grace, I realize that you have raised me from my sinful life and placed me in a position of authority next to you in the spiritual realms. Thank you for your kindness. I invite you to do your workmanship in me. In Jesus’ name!”*

## Friday, March 14 – “Let the Man Speak”

---

### Read slowly and carefully [Mark 10:46-52](#)

Is there something in your life that makes you feel like God would not be interested in helping you? Do you think God is too busy? Or that you are too weak, too small, or too doubt filled for Him to work in your life? Where does that message come from? Is this from you, God, or the devil? Are you sure?

In the first century, people with physical disabilities were usually scorned and ignored, often forcing them into poverty. When a blind beggar heard Jesus was passing by, he cried out in a loud voice for Jesus to be merciful to him. The crowd of able-bodied people around him *“rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more”* ([Mark 10:48](#)). Jesus stopped and called for the man. The crowds were surprised and encouraged him to stand up and be recognized by Jesus. The boldness of this man’s faith brought him the healing he desired. When something about us would suggest to us that God would not be interested in our situation, we should reject that message as an accusation of the enemy, not the truth of God’s heart. He is always merciful and longs to receive our faith. We need only to call out to him for his mercy.

**Read and pray [Psalm 103](#)** as a celebration of God’s love and mercy. Try praying it exactly as David wrote it, and then putting into your own words the things you desire God to do for you—to satisfy your desires ([Psalm 103:5](#)).

**NOTES:** *“What is God showing me this week?”*

---