

On the Way to the Mountain Top (Mark 9: 1-8)

Six days after this, YAHHSUA took with Him Peter, James and John and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves. And He was transfigured before them and became resplendent with divine brightness (Mark 9:2).

Every mountain presents a challenge for those who desire to climb. The higher the mountain peak, the harder the challenge one faces. Many risk their lives for the thrill to get to the top and enjoy the view. Some make it successfully, others fail. YAHSHUA often spent His nights in prayer at the Mount of Olives. But when He wanted to give the disciples the experience of a life time, He took them to a higher mountain. Not for the reason mentioned above, but for a reason of greater value; that of a spiritual one. There were twelve disciples, but only three were given the opportunity. As we have studied this before, Mount Hermon has been suggested, because it is the highest elevation in Israel and because it was near the events previously taken place (Matt. 16: 13).

Where ever the place it is of no significance. The reason and meaning are to be observed here for the foundation of our spiritual growth. For those who are mountain climbers the need to dress appropriate is necessary, as well as the tools needed to make it possible. No one can climb a mountain in a dress; neither in a regular tennis shoes. One has to wear the right kind of footwear to keep the feet steady in place and be dressed in the right clothes, not to be entangled on the way to the top. The ice axe, the harness and the cord are of great importance to provide a way for the climber to reach the top. The head gear provides a covering of protection against the sun and the cold. All these and much more are necessary for the mountain climber to achieve his/her dream.

In the world of knowledge the mountains are high but they are accessible and possible to achieve depending on the will of a person. Knowledge is an invisible mountain we all must climb to make a difference in this world. Will power is the tool that will take us there. This is in contrast to the physical mountain that needs not only will power but also physical efforts to climb it. Where there is knowledge, the world is brighter and life is easier to live. Understanding is the meaning in which we can profit from knowledge. They are fixed in the mind. But above all these, is the spiritual mountain ahead of each one of us believers. Like the physical mountain it is necessary for us to be dressed and shod properly to climb to the peak. The Lord has given us His word to be the instrument partaking to us knowledge on how to live a life that will lead us to the top of the mountain, where He wants us to come to fellowship with Him. The spiritual life exists only in the spiritual realm. Climbing the spiritual mountain requires faith to overcome the obstacles and persistence to the end. The Christian life is a constant mountain climb. No one will ever get to its peak by short cuts. Only by the carrying of our cross will we be able to overcome the steep places, for it is through submission to Christ that we can persevere in our journey to the top. YAHSHUA said, Whoever does not persevere and carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple (Luke 14:27). Without perseverance and the carrying of

the cross we cannot be disciples of Christ. The Christian faith is leaving behind the old life to press on to the new life in Christ with all the demands required to be worthy of Him.

YAHSHUA had twelve disciples or apostles, but only three were given the privilege to be with Him at the mountain where He was transfigured into His former state of being. There on the top of that mountain they experienced the divine glory. With their human eyes they saw what eyes had never seen before. They had to climb that high mountain to see YAHSHUA transfigured. Had they not done it, they would have had missed the most beautiful privilege given to man. Matthew describes how His appearance underwent a change in their presence; and His face shone clear and bright like the sun, and His clothing became as white as light (Matt. 17: 2); Mark says that He became resplendent with divine brightness; His garments became glistening, intensely white, as no fuller on earth could bleach them (Mark 9:2b-3); Luke said that as He was praying, the appearance of His countenance became altered and His raiment became dazzling white (Luke 9: 29).

In light of having seen the Lord YAHSHUA transfigured from the human form to the divine, they became witnesses of YAHSHUA'S deity. In His priestly prayer, when praying for us He said, Father, I desire that they also whom You have entrusted to Me may be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory, which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world (John 17: 24).

For every difficult experience that we might be having, we must remember we are climbing a spiritual mountain, the mountain that will take us to God. The higher we go the more difficult it gets before reaching the plateau where He is waiting for us. He is ever so near helping us to persevere. It's a climb that brings us closer to Him. The closer we get to Him the more that we will be like Him. Peter said, As the One Who called you is holy, you yourselves also be holy in all your conduct and manner of living. For it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy... You should conduct yourselves with true reverence throughout the time of your temporary residence (I Peter 1:15-16, 17b). To be conformed to His will is a step toward His holiness; a step higher in our climbing the spiritual mountain. Every day the believer should take a step closer being holy as He is holy. As Moses climbed Mount Sinai to be with God the reflection of His holiness shone on Moses' face as he left His presence. Moses would not have had that brilliance on his face if he had not being face to face with God on that mountain. So it should be with us. The problem with most of us lies on the fact that we do not take time to climb the mountain to be daily in His presence. We murmur and complain about everything and walk without the joy of the Lord radiating to others. In return the world does not care to know Him because it does not see the radiation of His glory in us.

“Pursue that consecration and holiness without which no one will see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14). Peter, James and John had to climb the mountain to see the glory of our Lord YAHSHUA. Shouldn't we do the same?