

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Mark 9:1-8.**
- B. Jesus begins to reveal some of the "deeper" things to His apostles.
- C. They must learn the depth of spirituality it takes to be faithful to God.
- D. There are five main lessons (episodes) to be seen in this chapter.

I. SECRET ONE: BE TRANSFORMED.

- A. See **Mk. 9:1-8.** (The Transfiguration.)
- B. Verse 1 is a great proof text to show that the kingdom was to arrive during the lifetime of the apostles (see Lk. 9:27 and Ac. 1:8).
- C. In this transfiguration we see that Moses represented the Law and Elijah represented the prophets. Of the three God endorsed the Son!
- D. The word *transfigured* describes a change on the outside that comes from the inside. It is the opposite of "masquerade," which is an outward change that does not come from within. Jesus allowed His glory to radiate through His whole being.
- E. Believers today are to experience this transforming power from glory unto glory. Is your life being changed on the outside because of the difference that X is making on the inside? (Rom. 12:1-2; 2Cor. 3:18).

II. SECRET TWO: KEEP AND OPEN MIND AND HEART.

- A. See **Mk. 9:9-13.** (A difficulty about Elijah.)
- B. Jesus made two facts very clear.
First, for those who had trusted in Him, this "Elijah" was John the Baptist, for John did indeed prepare the way before Him (Mt. 11:11-14). John was not Elijah come back from the dead (Jn. 1:21,25), but ministered in the "spirit and power of Elijah" (Lk. 1:16,17).
- C. Second, had the nation of Israel (the Jews) accepted John they would have accepted X. Instead they rejected both men and allowed them to be killed.
- D. By rejecting those who preach and teach the good news, we may be guilty of rejecting the One they are preaching too! Are your hearts and minds open or closed?

III. SECRET THREE: SPIRITUAL MATURITY MEANS PRAYER AND FASTING.

- A. See **Mk. 9:14-29.** (The Epileptic Boy/Power that comes by Faith.)
- B. The apostles had the power to heal the boy (6:7,13), but could not do it. The Lord was grieved with them because they could not remedy the situation.
- C. It was so bad that the father of the boy wondered if Jesus would be able to heal his son (9:22).
- D. Why did the apostles fail? Because they had been careless in their own spiritual lives. As Jesus said, "this kind only comes out by prayer and fasting" (9:29). The power that Jesus had given them was only effective if it was exercised by faith.
- E. Our faith, and service to God, is only good and productive when we are disciplined in our devotion. The problem might not be the Lord's unwillingness to answer our prayers, but our unwillingness to do His will!
- F. What things characterize your devotion? Regular Bible study...fervent prayer...constant encouragement to the brethren...etc., are all parts of doing our part so that the Lord can do His.
- G. Power to do comes through faith. A faith that is strong in the word and in prayer.

IV. SECRET FOUR: DISCARD ENVY, JEALOUSY, AND SELFISHNESS.

- A. See **Mk. 9:30-41.** (Service that leads to honor.)

- B. While Jesus was trying to tell them of his impending death, the apostles were too preoccupied with trying to figure out who among them was the greatest. How frustrating that must have been for Jesus! Jesus spoke of being like a child, not concerned w/who is the greatest, but ready to trust and to serve, this kind of person is the greatest.
- C. At this point, John felt it necessary to defend the disciples by pointing out their zeal. Imagine telling a man to stop casting out demons when the 9 disciples had failed to deliver the deaf and dumb boy from Satan's power! Selfishness!
- D. Are so smug in our Xian service that if others are doing as well as us, that we are jealous! Do we try and find fault so that we might look better? There is no room for envy in the body of X.
- E. Let's start offering the cup of water to those in need, thereby giving evidence that we have the heart of a servant.

V. **SECRET FIVE: GET SERIOUS WITH SIN.**

- A. See **Mk. 9:42-50**. (Stumbling that leads to Damnation.)
- B. This is a very solemn warning about sin. We must deal w/sin, drastically if need be if we want to avoid hell.
- C. Whatever sin is in our lives, and causes others to stumble must be removed.
- D. The Lord is not commanding literal surgery, but we must remove the cancerous tumor of sin if we expect to be what the Lord wants.
- E. Instead of rebuking others, the apostles should be examining their own hearts! It is too easy to lose our "saltiness" and become useless to God.
- F. Commitment and character are the essentials, if we are to glorify Him and have peace with each other (9:50).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The Savior's Secrets are deep truths that show the way to true spirituality.
- B. The Savior's Secrets:
 - 1. Be transformed from the inside out.
 - 2. Keep an open mind and heart (to the truth).
 - 3. Spiritual maturity means prayer and fasting.
 - 4. Discard envy, jealousy, and selfishness.
 - 5. Get serious with sin.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.