



This week at Magdalen Road we re-entered Mark's gospel at chapter 9. In this account we find ourselves both glimpsing Jesus' glory on the mountain and also hearing of his path of certain suffering as we come down into the valley.

We noted that as the Christian faith is increasingly on the margins of our society, as Christians we can have doubts about the truths of our faith. As Jesus takes Peter, James and John up a mountain and is transfigured before them, alongside Elijah and Moses, 2 big questions are dealt with

1. Can we trust his words?

The details of the experience on the mountain, are there to encourage his people to listen to Jesus (v7). The picture is painted in very 'Mosaic' terms - it's after 6 days (Ex 24v16), he is dazzling before them (Ex 34v29), Jesus even meets with Moses and Elijah who (both) met with God on Mount Sinai. It's likely that Jesus' ministry fulfils both Moses (representing the Law) and Elijah (reprinting the prophets).

In a world of voices and ideas, it's vital for the believer that we listen to and follow him.

2. Can we trust his plan?

In one sense the transfiguration sits in a juxtaposition to Jesus' mission involving the cross - and yet it's vital that we hold the two of them together as he does. Through suffering comes glory. After the mountain-top glimpse we get the reality in the valley of who he will get there. The pattern of his ministry is also to be ours - just as he will lay down his life and so bring life, so ought we. As we follow him in serving others and pouring himself out, so we find life.

In a world of 'self', Jesus' call to the believer sits in stark contrast, yet to lay down our lives and follow him, is where we find life.

Here are some questions

Where do you find it hardest to trust Jesus' words in our day? Why?
How does Mark seek to persuade us that we should listen to Jesus?
Why would they have needed persuading of this? Why do we?