SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Series: Servant King, Studying the Life of Jesus through the Gospel of Mark

Sermon Title: 'Surrounded by Witnesses'

Preacher: Rev. Mike Kenyon

Scripture: Mark 9:1-13

Date: November 1, 2026

Theme: Today is All Saints Sunday. For centuries, on or near November 1st, the church has paused to remember the saints. In the Bible, "saints" doesn't mean a special class of super-Christians. Paul writes his letters "to all God's holy people," literally, "to the saints." (Philippians 1:1). If you belong to Jesus, you are one. Today we remember the saints who have gone before us, and we're reminded that we are part of the same family.

On the mountain, Jesus is transfigured in dazzling white, and Moses and Elijah, the great saints of Israel, appear alive and talking with him. When Peter tries to hold onto the moment, a cloud overshadows them and the Father declares, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him." On All Saints Sunday, this glimpse behind the veil reminds us that those who have died in faith are not lost but gathered around Christ, and that his road to glory runs through the cross and the empty tomb.

Application: This week, carry the light of the mountain into the valley by living out your faith in how you serve, forgive, and love the people around you, just as the saints before us did.

Icebreaker: (for groups): What is a special 'mountain top moment' you have experienced?

Reflections on the Sermon: What points from the sermon were most meaningful to you?

Scripture Passages: (New International Version) Mark 9:1-13

And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

2 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. 3 His clothes became dazzling

white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. 4 And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

5 Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." 6 (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

7 Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

8 Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. 10 They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what "rising from the dead" meant.

11 And they asked him, "Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"

12 Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected? 13 But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him."

Reviewing the Scripture:

1. What did Jesus mean when he said, "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power"? (Mark 9:1)
2. What was Mark referring to when he referenced six days? (Mark 9:2) What are some significant events that happened after six days? (Exodus 24:15-16: Exodus 20:9-11)
3. Using your imagination and the Bible text, how would you describe the scene of the transfiguration? (Mark 9:2-4) What do you imagine that Elijah, Moses and Jesus were talking about? (Mark 9:4; Luke 9:31)
4. Why was it significant that Elijah and Moses appeared with Jesus? What might their presence communicate about Jesus' identity, mission or authority?
5. Why do you believe that Peter suggested making three shelters? (Mark 9:5-6)
6. How did God appear to Jesus and the others? What did God say and what did he tell the disciples to do? (Mark 9:7)
7. What did Jesus command the disciples as they descended the mountain? Why? (Mark 9:9-10)
8. What did the disciples ask Jesus about Elijah? About whom was Jesus speaking when he said that Elijah had come? (Mark 9:11-13)

Going Deeper:

1. How do you think you would have reacted if Jesus had chosen you to witness his transfiguration?
2. When have you had a moment – big or small- when God helped you see Jesus more clearly than before and how did it change you?
3. What does that mean for us today to 'listen to Him'? Where do you find that most challenging?
4. What helps you focus on Jesus when life feels crowded with responsibilities, noise or competing voices?
5. What encouragement or comfort does this passage give you?

Prayer:

Father,

Please open our eyes to see you more clearly in the middle of our busy lives. Teach us to listen to your voice above all others and help us follow you, especially when we do not fully understand or know the path ahead. Please give us courage and strength when life is hard and help us gain comfort by knowing that you are always with us.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Opportunities to Love Others Through Serving:

Join the Team! Like to teach, sing and have fun? Help with the Littles on Sunday mornings. Contact Madison Collins (madison@tupcsa.org)

La Semilla Learning Center: Wednesdays this fall @ 2-3:30: Share with children about art, music, and science in a faith-based environment. Contact Leola Quesada at leolaquesada@gmail.com for more information.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes: November 11, 2016, noon to 1:00 p.m. Volunteer with other adults to be literally "hands that serve" slices of pizza and/or provide packaged cookies during the monthly huddle at Foothill H.S. For details, contact Cherie Phipps (phipps-clan@cox.net)

See https://trinityconnection.com/serve/ for more opportunities!