

Desire for More of God

Introduction: we have been studying the importance of desiring God over the past 4 weeks. I would like to encourage you to go back to the notes that we have made available online or to watch the previous messages available on YouTube or as a podcast.

Opening text: Mark 3:7-15

1. From sea-level to the top of the mountain

V.13 - *13 And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him.*

a) Jesus called His disciples to a mountain - to a higher place.

The multitudes saw a side of Jesus by the sea, but Jesus wanted to reveal more of Himself at the mountain. There is always more in Jesus. Our lives don't have to stagnate at a certain level of experience or revelation. We can grow in the knowledge of Him.

Many are happy with *sea-level* relationship with God, but He wants you to desire a higher place.

b) **V.14a** - *Then He appointed twelve that they might be with Him*

Jesus is calling them closer to Him. We can be part of the multitude, see things from a distance - but intimacy is the place we should go for, the place we should hunger and desire.

Psalms 25:14 - *The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.*

The Passion Translation- *There's a private place reserved for the devoted lovers of Yahweh, where they sit near him and receive the revelation-secrets of his promises.*

I don't know about you but reading that passage awakens my desire for more of Jesus.

2. From one mountain to a higher one!

Mark 9:1-7

Verse 2 - *2 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a **high mountain** apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them.*

The mountain of chapter 3 was not the end of all revelation of Jesus. There was a “*high mountain*” here in chapter 9.

There was a higher place again ahead for His disciples (in this case Peter, James, and John).

a) V.1b - “*The kingdom of God present with power*”

What an intriguing, mysterious, statement. What could it mean that some would see the kingdom of God present with power? By this time, the disciples had already seen a lot of ‘power’: they saw Jesus walk above the waters, rebuke the storms, prepare a banquet for thousands in the desert (twice) and do all kinds of miracles and healings. They must have thought: “What does He mean by ‘seeing the Kingdom of God present with power’? Isn’t that what we have been seeing all along?”

Jesus was referring to the even greater and deeper experience that Peter, James and John were about to have. **There is always more in Jesus for us!** Just when thought they had seen every facet of Jesus, they saw Him afresh. There is always more in Him. How we need to desire more fresh encounters with Him!

- Even John who was here with Peter and James was taken to a greater level of revelation in the island of Patmos. While having that amazing vision, He heard a voice that said, “*come up here*”!

Revelation 4:1 - *After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.”*

He was already “*up there*,” in the vision, but there was a voice calling Him higher: *come up*

- After a tremendous experience in 3rd heaven, Paul still wrote: “*That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection*” – **Philippians 3:10**

There was still a desire in Paul for more!

- Moses, in the middle of a great visitation said, “*That I may know you*” – **Exodus 33:12-23**

He spoke to God face-to-face, but his hunger was not satisfied, he wanted to know Him more.

The legendary preacher **Smith Wigglesworth** used to say, “*I am satisfied with the dissatisfaction that never rests until it is satisfied again and again*”

There is always more in our relationship with Jesus: We don’t need to plateau, to stagnate or to fossilize.

- **Hosea 6:3** – “*Know and pursue the knowledge of God*” – The knowledge of God is always ongoing. Just when we discover one facet of Him, He shows us yet another, we hadn’t seen before!
- In **Genesis, chapters 28-35**, we read about Jacob as a man on a journey, discovering God along the way.
 - At Bethel (Gen.28:16-19) – He found “the House of God”
 - At Manahaim (Gen.32:22-30) – God’s Camp
 - At Peniel (Gen.32:22-30) – The Face of God
 - In Padam Haran (Genesis 35:1-13) - ...” *Then God appeared to Jacob again...*”

b) Encountering the King and His kingdom!

What happened to Peter James and John was a real encounter with the glorified Jesus – how He looks like as He stands today at the right hand of the Father. They saw Him no longer with the dusty robes and sandals He wore on earth, but as the King of Heaven full of glory, power, and splendour!

This was a field trip into what God’s kingdom and His king look like. Jesus led them there. There were times when Jesus taught using God’s Word but here, He taught Peter, James, and John by *demonstration*. Here He did not give them a seminar on the power of God – He took them there! He provided an encounter.

Jesus wants to teach us beyond mere intellectual knowledge. In fact, everything in the Bible is *experiential*.

... “*O taste and see that the Lord is good*” - **Psalms 34:8**

Let us desire more of Jesus, more of His kingdom, more of His power.

Some concluding thoughts

Let us read **Mark 9:14-29**

There is a purpose for ‘up-the-mountain’ encounters with Jesus: a ‘down-the-valley’ crowd of people in need of answers, in need of real power and Jesus!

Desiring Him, wanting more of Him is not for self-serving purposes. It is so we can bring the revelation of Jesus and the power of His kingdom to our hurting world.

Our opening Text in **Mark 3:14 – 15** says,

*Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him **and that He might send them out to preach,** ¹⁵ and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons:*

There is a purpose for intimacy, for knowing Jesus better, for encounters with Him. The purpose is not to simply satisfy our curiosity or to make us more 'spiritual' people, and then boast about it. The purpose is so we can effectively present Jesus to the world and bring about '*the kingdom of God present with power*'.