

Series: JESUS IS THE SUBJECT  
Title: More Than Meets The Eye  
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Date: March 16-17, 2019

Read Mark 8:38-9:13 and 2 Peter 1:16-18. This episode in Jesus' ministry is one of several in the Bible where we get the phrase, a 'mountain-top experience'. This is where someone encounters something awesome about God or experiences the presence of Jesus in a new way.

1. Do you have mountaintop experiences and if so, are they frequent, occasional, or rare? From this passage do all of Jesus disciples have them? Is it always wise to share them with others? Why or why not?
2. Be as specific as you can. What makes this story a one of a kind mountaintop experience for the disciples?
3. Looking at Luke 9:30—33, do you think the transfiguration was for Jesus' sake, or primarily for the sake of the disciples, both, or neither? Explain why you say that.
4. Peter suggests that they make memorials for Jesus, Elijah and Moses. The Father responds, "This is my beloved son, listen to him." What are some implications about listening to Jesus over Elijah and Moses? Does that mean the words of the Law and the Prophets are no longer valid?
5. Peter handles stress by talking more and making impulsive decisions. What strikes you about the way God corrects Peter and by implication, corrects us?
6. Peter's comments under stress are misguided and yet God's answer is helpful and insightful for us all. Do you find that God uses your mistakes or miscues and brings good out of them? We'd love to hear examples.
7. Mountaintop experiences end and we have to come back to earth. Things get messy fast. The disciples are stuck and unable to drive out a demon even though they have authority to do so. See Mark 3:15. What stands out to you from verses 14-32?

OVER

8. If you haven't spent time praying, pray now for friends who are enslaved to some form of darkness.