

Concord Community Church

CHRIST'S AUTHORITY (07/6/2026)

Certainly. Mark 9:1–10 records one of the most glorious revelations of Jesus Christ in the Gospels—the Transfiguration. This passage powerfully demonstrates Christ's divine authority, supreme glory, and unique position above all others.

Text: Mark 9:1–10

Key Verse: Mark 9:7 "Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: 'This is My Son, whom I love. Listen to Him!'"

INTRODUCTION: Authority is a subject that affects every area of life. Governments have authority over nations, parents have authority in families, teachers have authority in classrooms, and employers have authority in workplaces. Yet all human authority is limited, temporary, and imperfect.

Jesus Christ possesses a unique authority unlike any other authority in heaven or on earth. His authority is divine, eternal, and absolute. In Mark 9:1–10, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a high mountain where His divine glory is revealed. This event, known as the Transfiguration, serves as God's confirmation of Christ's supreme authority.

This passage answers a vital question:

"Why should we listen to Jesus and obey Him?" Because He is the glorious Son of God who possesses all authority.

I. CHRIST'S AUTHORITY IS REVEALED THROUGH HIS GLORY (Mark 9:2-3)

"There He was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them." The word "transfigured" comes from the Greek word *metamorphoo*, meaning a transformation from within.

Jesus did not become something He was not before. Rather, His hidden divine glory was unveiled. For a brief moment, the disciples saw the glory He possessed before coming to earth.

Jesus' Eternal Glory--Jesus prayed:

"Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world began." (John 17:5). The glory revealed on the mountain was the glory of God Himself.

Why is this important? Because authority belongs to glory.

The One who created the universe has the right to rule the universe.

Application: Many people admire Jesus as a teacher, prophet, or moral example.

But Mark 9 reveals that Jesus is infinitely more. He is the glorious Son of God. Therefore, He deserves worship, submission, and obedience.

Philippians 2:9-11 - "God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name."

II. CHRIST'S AUTHORITY IS GREATER THAN THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS (Mark 9:4-5)

"And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus."

Moses represented the Law. Elijah represented the Prophets. Together they symbolized the entire Old Testament revelation. For centuries Israel had revered Moses and Elijah. Yet on this mountain, both stand beside Jesus. Not above Him. Not equal to Him. But in submission to Him.

Peter's Mistake--Peter said:

"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." Peter unintentionally placed Jesus on the same level as Moses and Elijah.

God immediately corrected that misunderstanding.

The Message: Jesus is not merely another prophet. He is greater than Moses. He is greater than Elijah. He is the fulfilment of everything they pointed toward.

Scriptures: Matthew 5:17 "I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

Hebrews 1:1-2 "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets... but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son."

Application: Many voices compete for our attention today:

- Culture * Media * Philosophers * Politicians * Celebrities

But God's message remains: **Jesus is the final authority.** Every opinion must bow before His Word.

III. CHRIST'S AUTHORITY IS CONFIRMED BY THE FATHER (Mark 9:7)

"This is My Son, whom I love. Listen to Him!" This declaration came directly from heaven.

The Father publicly endorsed His Son. Notice three truths:

1. Jesus Is God's Son- This speaks of His divine identity. Jesus is not merely a messenger from God. He is God the Son. John 1:1 "The Word was God."

2. Jesus Is God's Beloved Son- The Father delights in Him. Everything Jesus says and does carries the Father's approval.

3. Jesus Must Be Heard- The Father's command was simple:

"Listen to Him." Not Moses. Not Elijah. Not popular opinion. Not human wisdom. Listen to Jesus.

Application: Many Christians admire Jesus but struggle to obey Him. The Father's command is not merely: "Appreciate Him." It is: "Listen to Him." Real discipleship means hearing and obeying Christ. Luke 6:46 "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

IV. CHRIST'S AUTHORITY DEMANDS OUR WORSHIP

(Mark 9:6) "Peter did not know what to say, they were so frightened."

Whenever people encounter God's glory in Scripture, they respond with awe.

- Isaiah cried, "Woe is me!" (Isaiah 6:5)
- Ezekiel fell facedown (Ezekiel 1:28)
- John fell at Christ's feet (Revelation 1:17)

The disciples experienced holy fear. **Why?** Because they were standing before divine majesty. Modern Christianity often emphasizes God's love but forgets His holiness. The Transfiguration reminds us that Jesus is not merely our friend. He is the glorious King of kings.

Application: Christ deserves more than casual acknowledgment. He deserves:

- Reverence * Worship * Obedience * Surrender * Revelation 5:12

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain."

V. CHRIST'S AUTHORITY EXTENDS OVER DEATH AND RESURRECTION (Mark 9:9-10)

"Don't tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead."

Jesus immediately turns their attention toward His coming death and resurrection.

The disciples were confused. They did not yet understand. Yet Jesus already knew exactly what would happen.

What does this reveal?

Christ had authority over: His death * His resurrection * God's redemptive plan

Scriptures- John 10:18 "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord."

Matthew 28:18 "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me." The resurrection would become the ultimate proof of Christ's authority. Anyone may claim authority. Only Jesus conquered death.

Application: Because Christ defeated death:

- We can trust Him in suffering.
- We can trust Him in uncertainty.
- We can trust Him with our future.
- We can trust Him with eternity.

VI. CHRIST'S AUTHORITY TRANSFORMS THOSE WHO FOLLOW HIM

Peter, James, and John never forgot this experience. Years later Peter wrote: "We were eyewitnesses of His majesty." (2 Peter 1:16). The vision strengthened them for future trials.

Soon they would witness: * Christ's rejection * Christ's suffering * Christ's crucifixion

But they would never forget His glory.

Application: The more clearly, we see Christ, the more willingly we submit to His authority. Weak discipleship usually results from a small view of Jesus. Strong discipleship results from a great vision of Christ. When we see Him as He truly is:

- Our fears shrink.
- Our faith grows.
- Our obedience deepens.
- Our worship intensifies.

PRACTICAL LESSONS FOR TODAY

1. Recognize Christ's Divine Authority-He is more than a teacher or prophet. He is God's eternal Son.

2. Listen to Christ Above Every Other Voice-Culture changes. God's Word does not.

3. Worship Him with Reverence—Never lose your awe of Jesus.

4. Obey Him Completely—His authority demands submission.

5. Trust Him in Every Circumstance—The One who conquered death is worthy of our confidence.

CONCLUSION: On the Mount of Transfiguration, God pulled back the curtain and allowed three disciples to glimpse the true glory of Jesus Christ. They saw:

- His divine glory
- His superiority over Moses and Elijah
- The Father's approval
- His coming victory through death and resurrection

The Father's message still echoes through history: "This is My beloved Son. Listen to Him."

The central question for every believer is not merely: "**Do I believe in Jesus?**" But:

"Am I listening to Him, obeying Him, and submitting to His authority?" Because one day every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Philippians 2:10-11 "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

May we joyfully submit to Christ's authority today, worship Him wholeheartedly, and follow Him faithfully until He comes again. Amen.

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father,

We thank You for revealing the glory of Your Son on the holy mountain. Open our eyes to see Jesus as He truly is—the beloved Son of God, clothed with all authority in heaven and on earth. Help us to listen to Him above every competing voice. Give us hearts that willingly obey, lives that faithfully follow, and mouths that boldly proclaim His Lordship. May the vision of Christ's glory strengthen us in trials, encourage us in service, and inspire us to worship Him with reverence and joy.

In the mighty name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.