

# Mark 9:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

## Analysis

Peter's response, 'Master, it is good for us to be here' (Παββί, καλόν ἔστιν ἡμᾶς ὅδε εῖναι), expresses desire to remain in this moment of glory. His proposal to build 'three tabernacles' (τρεῖς σκηνάς)—one for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah—seems to place them on equal footing, missing Jesus' supremacy. The term 'tabernacles' (skēnas) recalls Israel's wilderness dwelling and the Feast of Tabernacles commemorating God's presence. Peter may have thought the messianic age had arrived, fulfilling Zechariah 14:16's prophecy about Gentiles celebrating Tabernacles in the kingdom. His well-meaning but misguided proposal reveals incomplete understanding—he wanted to preserve the mountain-top experience, avoiding the valley of suffering awaiting them. The disciples often struggled to reconcile kingdom glory with suffering servanthood. God's voice corrects Peter's proposal (v. 7), directing attention to Jesus alone.

## Historical Context

The Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) was one of three pilgrimage festivals, celebrating harvest and commemorating Israel's wilderness wandering. Jewish eschatology connected it with messianic age (Zechariah 14:16-19). Peter's suggestion may reflect belief that the kingdom had arrived and they should immediately celebrate. Building tabernacles also echoes Moses' tabernacle housing God's presence (Exodus 40). However, Peter's attempt to equalize Jesus with Moses and Elijah was theologically problematic—Jesus isn't one among

prophets but the Son to whom all prophets point. Mark notes Peter 'knew not what to say' (οὐ γὰρ ἤδει τί ἀποκριθῆ), indicating his confused state. The Father's voice immediately corrects this confusion.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Peter's desire to stay on the mountain and avoid the valley of suffering parallel our tendency to seek spiritual highs while avoiding the cross?
2. What does Peter's attempt to equalize Jesus with Moses and Elijah reveal about incomplete understanding of Christ's absolute supremacy?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ἀποκριθεὶς	ό	Πέτρος	λέγει	τῷ	Ἰησοῦ	‘Ραββί
<b>And</b>	<b>answered</b>	G3588	<b>Peter</b>	<b>and said</b>	G3588	<b>to Jesus</b>	<b>Master</b>
G2532	G611		G4074	G3004		G2424	G4461

καλόν	ἐστιν	ἡμᾶς	ώδε	εῖναι	καὶ	ποιήσωμεν	σκηνάς
<b>good</b>	<b>it is</b>	<b>for us</b>	<b>here</b>	<b>to be</b>	<b>And</b>	<b>let us make</b>	<b>tabernacles</b>
G2570	G2076	G2248	G5602	G1511	G2532	G4160	G4633

τρεῖς	σοὶ	μίαν	καὶ	Μωσεῖ	μίαν	καὶ	‘Ηλίᾳ	μίαν
<b>three</b>	<b>for thee</b>	G1520	<b>And</b>	<b>for Moses</b>	G1520	<b>And</b>	<b>for Elias</b>	G1520
G5140	G4671		G2532	G3475		G2532	G2243	