

Matthew 17

Jesus

I. Jesus Transfigured Glory of the Lord

1 Now after **six days** Jesus took **Peter, James, and John** his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves...

Six days passed since Jesus prophesied some would His Kingdom come

- Chosen by Jesus/go w/Jesus up mountain by themselves to pray
- Peter and two Sons of Thunder James/John

[Some...] have suggested that He did it because **these three needed closer supervision** than the others. [Guzik]

2 ... and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

Luke 9:29 As He prayed, the appearance of **His face was altered**, and His robe became white and glistening.

- **Transfigured:** *metamorphoō*. Lit. transfigure, transform, change in form
 1. Face altered/Metamorphosis
 2. Face as bright as the sun
 3. Clothes white as Light/Glistening
- **His glory was from within...not without:** Unzipped flesh to reveal glory of God

3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

- **Behold:** Check this out. The Law and the Prophets are with Jesus
 1. Moses a picture of the Law appears alive 1400 years after death
 2. Elijah a picture of Prophets appears alive 900 years after death

Law/Prophets all spoke of Jesus...Jesus fulfilled all of what they spoke

Matthew 5:17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the **Law or the Prophets**. I did not come to destroy **but to fulfill**."

Luke 24:44b ... all things must be fulfilled which were written in the **Law of Moses** and the **Prophets** and the Psalms concerning Me."

4 Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, **let us make here three tabernacles**: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

Luke 9:33 Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—**not knowing what he said.**

- **Peter trying to fix last mistake pipes up...**

1. This is fantastic... and I want to help
2. Let's make three houses all the same design
3. One for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah

- Peter continues to lay out his plan for the afternoon outing but...

5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Hear Him!**"

Jesus is not like anyone else Peter. Don't talk listen.

- **Lots of voices speaking into our lives today...**

1. News Media
2. Social Media
3. So-called experts
4. Life coaches
5. Those we look up to in the faith
6. **Even our own voice and opinion...** mindful of the things of men not God

The Father would say to us this morning...turn the volume knob down/off on all other voices

"This is My beloved Son... **Hear Him!**"

- **What did Jesus say today?**

1. I fulfilled the Eternal plan for your Salvation: Suffered/Died/Rose again
2. I accepted the terms before the foundation of the earth...thinking of you
3. I overcame Satan's temptation as he tried to stop Me from the cross
4. I will give you joy eternally to the extent you suffer temporarily...for My sake
5. I am coming back to Judge... **so live and love like you know I am**

"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Hear Him!**"

- **Jesus Transfigured** continued...

Matthew 16:28 Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they **see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.**

- **6 Days later:** Jesus takes Peter James and John up on high mountain
- **3 Boys see Jesus coming in His Kingdom...**

1. **Jesus Transfigured:** Face like sun/clothes white as light
2. **Moses/Elijah back:** Peter begins to talk and interrupted...

5 While [Peter] was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Hear Him!**"

Be Quiet and Listen. Hone the skill of Hearing God's voice

- How many problems could have been avoided if we just stopped/listened to Jesus?
- **God speaks to us...**

1. By Living Word of God...Jesus Christ
2. Through written Word of God

- **We must learn how to hear God's voice ... My sheep hear my voice**

It is dangerous to only listen to our favorite Bible teachers and not hear from Jesus ourselves. [NJC]

- **1 Corinthians 1**

1. Letter of correction to **Immature Believers**
2. Divisions/Contentions among them. **Why?**

I am of Paul or "**I am of Apollos** or **I am of Peter**
...are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

- **Division** Unhealthy Devotion to Bible teacher
- **Contention** Defending a man's teaching rather than Word of God

Are you for Calvinism or Arminianism? No. But what does Jesus say?

Joshua 5:13b... a Man stood opposite [Joshua] with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "**Are You for us or for our adversaries?**" 14 So He said, "**No**, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "**What does my Lord say** to His servant?"

... Hear Jesus!

If Peter be our master, let us call him so; if Calvin be our master, let us call him so; and if Wesley be our master, let us call him so; but **if we be disciples of Jesus**, then let us follow Jesus, and follow him with other men only so far as we perceive **they followed Christ**. [Spurgeon]

- **Mature Christians...**

1. **Do** listen to good teachers but...
2. **Do not** have unhealthy devotion to them

Unhealthy dedication to men can lead to disaster. Divisions/Contentions in the Church
Falling away/Disillusionment of followers when teacher falls/goes sideways

- Pastors falling like flies. Target on their backs
- Make-believers/Tares planted: Recent Christian College President...

How many young people who had to claw their way out of the cesspool of this world system in hope of attending an institution that would inspire righteousness/holiness were crushed by the selfishness and perversity of this individual and his wife? [Millstone Award] [NJC]

- Students that had their eyes on Jesus will make it...but it still won't be easy

When we lean on a man, we will no doubt eventually fall with that man. When we lean on Jesus we will never fall. [NJC]

Jesus is the only Hero who will never let us down

"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Hear Him!**"

6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.

- **Voice of God**

Psalm 29:3 [David] The **voice of the Lord** is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The Lord is over many waters. 4 The **voice of the Lord** is powerful; The **voice of the Lord** is full of majesty. 5 The **voice of the Lord** breaks the cedars, Yes, the Lord splinters the cedars of Lebanon. 6 He makes them also skip like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox. 7 **The voice of the Lord** divides the flames of fire. 8 The **voice of the Lord** shakes the wilderness; The Lord shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh. 9 The **voice of the Lord** makes the deer give birth, And strips the forests bare; And in His temple everyone says, "Glory!" 10 The Lord sat enthroned at the Flood, And the Lord sits as King forever. 11 The Lord will give strength to His people; The Lord will bless His people with peace.

- **Response to voice of God...**

1. Fell on their faces
2. Became greatly afraid

- **After the Ten Commandments given...**

Exodus 20:18 [After Law given] ...all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood afar off. ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but **let not God speak with us, lest we die.**"

Deuteronomy 18:15 [God's response] "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. **Him you shall hear...**

- Prophecy Fulfilled...

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has **in these last days spoken to us by His Son**

- **Peter, James and John:** Shaking and on their faces...

7 But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and **do not be afraid.**" 8 When they had lifted up their eyes, they **saw no one but Jesus only.**

- Moses and Elijah gone/Jesus remains...

When all flawed/fallible men vanish...Jesus remains

- **Jesus only can tell us with confidence/certainty...** Do not be afraid

O look to him, and though it be Jesus only, though Moses should condemn you, and Elijah should alarm you, yet Jesus only shall be enough to comfort and enough to save you." [Spurgeon]

- I must decrease and He must increase...
- **Jesus is the Rock that is higher than I...**

1 Samuel 23:26 [David afraid running from Saul...] Then Saul went on **one side** of the mountain, and David and his men on the **other side of the mountain.** So David made haste to get away from Saul, for Saul and his men were encircling David and his men to take them.

- **All David could see:** Mountain of Rock between him and what made him afraid
- **God brings us to the place where all we see is Jesus...**

Psalms 61:1 [David] Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer. 2 From the end of the earth I will cry to You, **When my heart is overwhelmed;** Lead me to the **rock that is higher than I.** 3 For You have been a shelter for me, A strong tower from the enemy.

- **Jesus is that Rock.** Listen to Him. See Him alone.

...we have no Master but Christ; we submit ourselves to no vicar of God; we bow down [to] no great leader of a sect, neither to Calvin, nor to Arminius, to Wesley, or Whitfield. '**One is our Master,**' and that one is enough, for we have learned to see the wisdom of God and the power of God in **Jesus only.**" [Spurgeon]

9 Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."

Luke 9:36 ...they **kept quiet,** and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen.

10 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" 11 Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. 12 But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." 13 Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the

Baptist.

- Why ask **this question** on the way down?

Luke 9:29 [Parallel Scripture] ...**two men talked with Him**, who were Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and **spoke of His decease** which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

- Moses/Elijah spoke to Jesus about upcoming events...
 1. **Decease:** *e'ks-o-dos* Exodus i.e. **departure**
 2. Death/Resurrection/Ascension to Heaven...

Acts 1:9 ... while they watched, [Jesus] was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, **two men** [Moses/Elijah?] **stood by them in white apparel**, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Matthew 16:28 Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they **see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.**"

v 28 ... there are **some standing** here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man Coming in His kingdom

- **Some standing there?** Peter, James and John

Jesus will come back to usher in His Kingdom on Earth

- **His glory will be seen on another mountain soon...**

Zechariah 14:4 ... **His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives**, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.

- **His glory will be seen in the Temple once again...**

Ezekiel 43:4 [Temple Restored/Glory Returns in Jesus] And the **glory of the Lord came into the temple** by way of the gate which faces toward the east. 5 The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the **glory of the Lord filled the temple.**

SUMMARY Jesus Transfigured

Meaningful faith-building mountaintop experience for the boys!
God is Big and God is Good

II. Deliverance Getting Serious w/God. Overcoming Spiritual Laziness

14 And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, 15 "Lord, have mercy **on my son**, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into

the water.

- **From the Mountaintop to the Valley: Rubber meets the road. Nitty-Gritty**

1. Multitude waiting for Jesus
2. Needs expressed in tears/shouting
3. Father falls on knees before Jesus pours out heart for his son ...

My son is trying to kill himself. Have mercy on my son
Evil is Real. Satan is Real. Possession is real. Time to get Serious about our walk

- **Facts:**

1. **Man's son is Possessed** v18
2. **Satan's Weapon:** Discouragement leading to hopelessness
3. **Desired result:** Death by suicide before Salvation

Satan's voice to those he controls...Might as well jump!

- **Have mercy on my son? What was this kid into?**
- Father knew son needed mercy for opening a door to Satan...
 1. Music
 2. Drugs/Alcohol
 3. Social Media
 4. Pornography
 5. Pokémon
 6. Dungeons and Dragons

The boy knew better than the advice given. Now he is a pathetic captive of Satan

16 So I brought him to Your disciples, but they **could not cure him.**" 17 Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me."

- **Your disciples are useless:** Not what we want people to say about us

18 And Jesus **rebuked the demon**, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

- Cast out but work not finished?

Matthew 12:44 [After demon is cast out] Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."

- Holy Spirit must enter after Devil leaves or he's coming back
- Getting rid of/utterly destroying... doors that allow Satan to enter

How do I know what opens doors for Satan? Can you worship Jesus at same time?
What is the Holy Spirit telling you? Teletubbies? What leaves you depressed?

1. Any TV/Music/Media/Activities that promotes godlessness
 2. Anything that is in conflict w/your ability to worship Jesus at same time
- Empty the evil
 - Be filled w/ the Holy Spirit. Born-Again

Evil is real. Satan is real. Possession is real.
Time to get serious. Time to take action. Repent of Spiritual Laziness

19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" 20 So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. 21 However, this kind does not go out except by **prayer and fasting.**"

O faithless and perverse generation. Why?
Impotent and uncaring demonstrated through Spiritual laziness

Serious deliverance only happens when we get serious with Jesus

- **Faith as mustard seed:** Not quantity but quality of faith in object of faith [bring to Me]
- Unable to deliver due to unbelief. Faith/Deliverance would have come through...
 1. **Prayer:** Listening for God/Listening to God. Not trusting God but self
 2. **Fasting:** Denying the flesh/letting Spirit take control Did not really care

He that would overcome the devil in certain instances must first overcome heaven by prayer, and conquer himself by self-denial. [Spurgeon]

Our children, friends, family's souls are worth our diligent prayer/self-denial
Pray and Fast until all you see is Jesus...then bring them to Him

III. Jesus Again Predicts His Death/Resurrection

22 Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up."

- **Peter confesses:** You are the Christ/Son of Living God

Matthew 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be

killed, and be raised the third day.

- **Getting Closer:** Face like flint to the cross

23b... And they were **exceedingly sorrowful.**

- So sad about His death could not hear about Resurrection

IV. Peter and His Master Pay Taxes

24 When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, "Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?" 25 He said, **"Yes."**

- **Religious Tax Collector:** Doesn't Jesus pay "temple tax"?
 - A. Yes. Wait here I'll go get it. **Jesus...**do we pay Temple Tax?
- **Temple Tax:** Paid by every Jewish male to support of the Temple

... And when [Peter] had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?" 26 Peter said to Him, "From strangers." Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free."

- Kings of the Earth do not pay taxes to themselves so...
- King of Heaven does not have to pay taxes to Himself

27 Nevertheless, **lest we offend them**, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them **for Me and you."**

...Jesus did not have to pay this temple tax. Yet Jesus also recognized the importance of avoiding needless controversy...[Guzik]

- Set a good example for others.
- Cast a hook/Catch a fish/Open its mouth/Take the coin/Pay for you and Me

Choosing our Battles

Is it worth it for us to stand our ground in this instance? What does the Spirit say?

Jesus did not have to pay this tax but not paying the tax would cause needless controversy for both Jesus and Peter. Jesus led by the Spirit chose his battles and this one was not worth fighting. The greater good was to be approachable fishers of men, i.e. Not paying the tax would have been seen as an offence by those who otherwise may have listened to the Gospel and been saved. [NJC]

"Thus, the great Son pays the tax levied for his Father's house; but he exercises his royal prerogative in the act, and takes the shekel out of the royal treasury. As man he pays, but first as God he causes the fish to bring him the shekel in its mouth." [Spurgeon]

- Jesus paid for Peter's Taxes. Soon He would pay for Peter's Life.

SUMMARY Peter and His Master Pay Taxes

