

I. The Transfiguration. (v. 1-8)

A. (v. 1) What did Jesus mean?...

1. Some believe He's talking about the 2nd Coming.

- a. **Problem:** All those guys died before the 2nd Coming.
- b. **Possible Solution:** John saw the 2nd Coming before he died (cf. Revelation 19:11-16), and Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would show them "things to come" (John 16:13)

2. Some believe He's referring to the Holy Spirit coming upon the church with power and the Gospel going throughout the whole world.

- a. Cf. Acts 1:8; Colossians 1:6.

3. Some believe He's referring to His crucifixion.

- a. Cf. Luke 23:42-43.

4. Some believe He's referring to the Transfiguration.

- a. In context, it seems that this is the most plausible.
- b. Some of His disciples (Peter, James, John) see His glory.

B. (v. 2)

1. "After six days..."

- 1) Mark tells us here that it was **after** six days, and Luke tells us that it was **about eight** days. (Luke 9:28)

2. "High mountain" – Mt. Hermon

3. "transfigured" – Gr. metemorphothe from word metemorphoō – lit. "to change the external form, to transform"

- a. Paul wrote to the Romans, "*And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...*" (Rom. 12:1-2)
- b. I believe that God pulled back the veil of the natural and the disciples were given a glimpse into the spiritual realm.

C. (v. 3)

1. **"exceeding white as snow"**

- a. Matthew tells us, *"And was transfigured before them, and His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light."* (Matt 17:2)

2. **"So as no fuller on earth can white them..."**

- a. "fuller" – basically a laundry man of the day
 - 1) He was one who bleaches and dresses new material or washes and scrubs soiled garments.
 - 2) He would wash the clothes in the stream, and place the wet clothes on flat stones and pound out the dirt.¹ Then they would leave it in the sun to bleach the clothes to keep them white.

3. **Peter and John's testimonies of what they saw.**

- a. **Peter** – "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount." (2 Peter 1:16-18)
- b. **John** – "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)
 - 1) **NOTE:** John gets a glimpse here of what he sees on the Isle of Patmos...
 - 2) Revelation 1:12-18 "And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."
 - 3) Revelation 21:23, speaking of the Heavenly Jerusalem, says, "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to

shine in it: **for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.**"

D. (v. 4) – Moses (Law) & Elijah (Prophets).

E. (v. 5-6)

1. "Let us make three tabernacles, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

- a. The beginning of the desire to create shrines in the Holy Land to commemorate the sites where the exciting things happened. Peter!!!
- b. **Q** = How did Peter know that it was Moses and Elijah?... They just knew.
 - 1) **Q** = When we get to heaven, are we going to know who people are?... Yes!
 - a) We're Not going to be stupider in heaven.
 - b) Because Peter just knows who they are, it would seem that when we get to heaven, we just know who people are.

2. "...for he knew to what to say."

- a. **KEY:** It's been said, "It's better to keep your mouth shut and let people think you're a fool, than to open it and remove all doubt."

F. (v. 7-8)

1. "cloud" – the glory of God (cf. Ex. 13:21-22)

2. "This is My beloved Son: Hear Him."

- a. "This is My beloved Son."
 - 1) Same phrase at Jesus' baptism (Mk. 1:11).
- b. "Hear Him" – lit. "Him be hearing."
 - 1) **Hebrews 1:1-2a** says, "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son..."

II. Post-Mountaintop Experience. (v. 9-32)

A. Jesus Charges His Disciples. (v. 9-13)

1. (v. 10) They weren't sure if they should interpret Jesus literally.

B. Jesus Protects His Disciples. (v. 14-27)

1. The Demon-possessed Boy.

a. Results of his demon-possession:

- 1) He was mute. (v. 17)
- 2) He tears him. (v. 18, 20)
- 3) He foams. (v. 18, 20)
- 4) He gnashes with his teeth.
- 5) He pines away – “wastes away; withers away.”
- 6) He casts him into the fire. (v. 22)
- 7) He casts him into the waters. (v. 22)
- 8) He was a lunatic. (Matt. 17:15)
- 9) He was sore vexed. (Matt. 17:15)

b. **NOTE:** Satan wants to destroy you.

- 1) Jesus said, “*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly.*” (John 10:10)

2. (v. 25) “...and enter no more into him.”

a. Cf. Matthew 12:43-45 “*When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth [it] empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last [state] of that man is worse than the first...*”

C. Jesus Teaches His Disciples. (v. 28-32)

1. (v. 29) “...This kind...”

a. This kind of **power**.

b. This kind of **demon**.

- 1) There are various rankings of demons that have different powers. (Cf. Eph. 6)

- c. This kind of **faith**.
 - 1) Cf. Matthew 17:20-21.

III. Jesus Teaches in Capernaum. (v. 33-50)

A. Teaching About Servanthood. (v. 33-37)

1. (v. 33-34)

- a. *"They disputed among themselves who would be the greatest."*
 - 1) It could have been that **Peter** said, "Well, I'm the leader." **James** said, "Don't steal my thunder." **John** said, "I'm the one who Jesus loves." **Andrew** said, "I brought all you guys to Jesus." **Judas** said, "I'm trusted as treasurer. I'm the man with the cash, it must be me." **Thomas** said, **"I doubt if it's any of you guys!"**

2. (v. 35)

- a. **NOTE:** Jesus doesn't condemn them for wanting to be great, but patiently and graciously teaches them how to be great!

B. Teaching About Unity. (v. 38-41)

1. (v. 38)

- a. *"We forbid him because he followeth not us."*
 - 1) **We see here an attitude of exclusivity and denominationalism.**
 - a) **NOTE:** This was caused by...
 - 1. **Elitism** – "We are so much better than him. We've got it together. We're the 12 apostles. **AND/OR...**
 - 2. **Jealousy** – "I wish I could cast demons out."

C. Teaching About Purity. (v. 42-50)

1. "hell" – Gr. *gehenna* – represents Hebrew expression *ga-Hinnom* – The Valley of Hinnom.

- a. This place became known as a place of evil.
 - 1) Ahaz and Manasseh made their children "pass through the fire" to Molech in this valley. (1 Kings 16:3; 2 Kings 21:6; 2 Chr. 28:3; 33:6)
 - a) These sacrifices were probably made on the "high places of Tophet" which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom. (Jer. 7:31; 32:15)

- 2) Josiah eventually polluted it with human bones and other corruptions so that they would stop sacrificing there. (2 Kings 23:10, 13-14)
- 3) Eventually, it became a dump where they would take their trash, worms and bugs would infest it, and because of the smell, they started burning it with fire.

b. **Hell's Future Reality.**

- 1) Cf. Isaiah 66:24; Daniel 12:2; Revelation 20:12-15.

2. "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."

- a. **Q** = What does an everlasting worm have to do with hell?...
 - 1) Jesus is not speaking of earthworms or any other kind of animal, but He is speaking about the human body.
 - 2) Notice the word "**their**." It's not "*the*" worm, but "**their**" worm.

3. (v. 49)

- a. "*For **every one** shall be salted with fire.*"
 - 1) Jesus is talking about people: **Believers & Unbelievers.**
 - a) Hebrews 12:29 tells us, "*For our God is a consuming fire.*"
 1. Fire speaks of Judgment & Purification (purging, cleansing).
 - 2) **The fire of judgment and purification for the...**
 - a) **Unbelievers.**
 1. Great White Throne Judgment – Eternal fire. (v. 48; Revelation 20:12-15)
 - b) **Believers.**
 1. "*Fire*" = Trials and Suffering.
 - a. These things accompany the "*living sacrifice*" of the disciple (Romans 12:1)
 - b. Read 1 Peter 1:7; 4:12
 2. "*Fire*" = Holy Spirit. (Luke 3:16)

- a. His "salting" of us purifies, cleanses, preserves, and adds flavor, thus making our "living sacrifice" acceptable to God.
 - 3. "Fire" = Bema Seat of Christ. (1 Cor. 3:12-15)
 - 3) In context, Jesus is talking about the severe measures that need to sometimes be taken and how that we need that purifying fire of God in our lives to burn out the dross from our lives.
- b. "And ***every sacrifice*** shall be salted with salt."
- 1) I believe Jesus is referring back to the Levitical Offerings, which speak about believers giving their body a living sacrifice (Lev. 2:13; Rom. 12:1).
 - a) These were willful offerings.
 - 2) "Salt" – Gr. *hali* – "salt"
 - a) Salt does a few things...
 - 1. Purifies.
 - 2. Cleanses.
 - 3. Preserving influence.
 - a. Without refrigeration, when meat was butchered, it would soon begin to rot. And so to retard the spoilage, they would salt down the meat heavily. The salt killed the surface bacteria and thus preserved the meat.
 - 4. Adds flavor.
 - 5. Causes thirst.
 - 3) In Israel, if you are a good, sweet person and a good influence, they would call you "the salt of Israel."
 - a) In Matthew 5:13, Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth."
 - b) Not are we only the salt of Israel, but of the entire earth. We are the preserving, good influence on this world.
 - 4) Basically, Jesus is saying, "When you give your life to Me as a living sacrifice, you will have a preserving influence.

You will purify those around you. You will cause there to be a cleansing around you, and you will add flavor to life."

4. (v. 50)

- a. *"Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it?"*
 - 1) The technical term for "salt" is "Sodium Chloride."
 - a) This chemical composition does not break down by itself. The only way it will lose its saltness is if it is **contaminated**.
 1. James wrote, *"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."* (James 1:27)
- b. *"Have salt in yourselves."*
 - 1) Be a preserving influence.
 - 2) Add flavor to life.
 - 3) Bring a purity to people.
- c. *"Have peace one with another."*
 - 1) In context, Jesus has been talking about Unity and Purity.

¹ Manners and Customs.