

Following the King

Sermon 5

Glory on the Mountain, Power in the Valley

Text: Matthew 17:1–21 (NKJV)

Series Recap:

We have been walking through Matthew under the theme Following the King. Let me remind you where we've been:

- **The Call** (Matt. 4): Jesus says, “Follow Me,” and disciples leave nets for destiny.
- **The Constitution** (Matt. 5–7): The Sermon on the Mount — the Kingdom’s culture and code of conduct.
- **The Commission** (Matt. 10): Sent out with authority to preach, heal, and deliver.
- **The Conflict** (Matt. 16): Peter’s confession collides with the cross — showing us discipleship is not crown without cross.

Now we come to The Climax — where His glory is unveiled on the mountain, and His power is proven in the valley.

Every disciple must learn to live between the mountain and the valley — seeing Him in GLORY, then serving Him in the GRIND.

You cannot live on the mountain — you live in the valley. The view is breathtaking up high, but the fruit grows down low. It's dangerous to live mountain to mountain because nothing roots, matures, or multiplies on the peaks — growth happens where the soil is, in the valley.

Mountains give perspective, but valleys give produce

Matthew 17:1–21 (NKJV)

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

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

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

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.”

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!”

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

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.

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.”

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.

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.

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.”

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

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.”

Point 1 – The Mountain: A Place of Revelation - (vv.1–8)

The mountain gives us Clarity, Convergence, and Confidence.

- **Clarity:** Jesus shines like the sun. He isn’t just a rabbi — He is the radiant Son of God. The Father doesn’t say, “Hear them” (Moses and Elijah). He says, “Hear Him.”
 - Hidden nugget: On the mountain, the hierarchy of heaven is settled. Christ stands above prophets and patriarchs.
- **Convergence:** The Law and Prophets appear, but they fade away. Why? Because everything written converges in Christ. The shadow bows when the substance stands.
- **Confidence:** The disciples collapse in fear, but Jesus touches them: “Arise, do not be afraid.” **True revelation doesn’t leave you paralyzed — it raises you with courage.**

Transition: **But don’t miss it — the mountain ends not with a tent but with a touch. Glory is never for hoarding. It’s for carrying into the valley.**

Point 2 – The Valley: A Place of Resistance - (vv.14–18)

- **Chaos:** At the foot of the mountain is a tormented boy.

Demons don't go on break just because you have been in glory.

- **Crisis:** *The father says, “I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.”*

The Church is always measured by whether it can minister to the broken in the valley.

- **Confrontation:** Jesus doesn't argue with the demon; He rebukes it, and it flees. **What was revealed on the mountain is released in the valley.**
 - Hidden nugget: The world expects power from God's people. And **when they come to us powerless, their cry is an indictment: “I brought them to Your disciples, but they could not...”**

Nothing dishonors the mountain more than powerlessness in the valley.

Transition: The disciples are shaken. They ask the question we all ask when heaven's power doesn't seem to flow: “Why couldn't we?”

Point 3 – The Mystery: A Place of Reliance - (vv.19–21)

Jesus answers: “Because of your unbelief... this kind goes out only by prayer and fasting.”

(Put these three points on one slide)

Prayer connects us to God — keeping the mountain alive in us.

Fasting consecrates us before God — crucifying flesh so glory flows unhindered.

Faith anchors us in God — not faith in faith, but faith in Christ.

Hidden nugget: Jesus says faith like a mustard seed can move mountains. Meaning? **It is not the size of faith that matters, but the substance. Little faith in a big God is enough to shake immovable things.**

**Revelation on the mountain must become
reliance in the valley.**

Transition: **Which brings us to the final movement — what God expects us to do with what we’ve received.**

Point 4 – The Mandate: A Pattern of Release

The rhythm of discipleship is simple: **Ascend, Absorb, Apply.**

- Ascend into His presence — not to escape, but to be equipped.

- Absorb His glory — until “Jesus only” is all you see.
- Apply His power — descend into the valley and release what you’ve received.

The valley is not proof the mountain failed. The valley is proof the mountain was necessary.

What you receive in revelation, and secure through reliance, you must release for restoration.

Conclusion – The Cycle of Glory

- On the mountain, you hear His voice.
- In the valley, you use His victory.
- On the mountain, you see His light.
- In the valley, you shine His life.

One Jewel to Carry: We ascend to behold Him, but we descend to deliver them.

Do not build a shrine on the summit — build strength for the struggle. Glory is not an escape; is not equipment. We ascend to see Him, but we descend to set captives free. That’s what it means to FOLLOW THE KING.