MYSTERY & MAJESTY

– 20 –

It's All About Jesus

All verses use the English Standard Version (ESV)

Matthew 16 Recap:

- Peter just had one of the greatest revelations
- Jesus is the Christ
- Revealed by the Father
- Jesus explaining what he must do as the Christ
- Go to Jerusalem, suffer, be killed, rise again
- Peter says no.

Matthew 16:28 "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Matthew 17:1 And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

- 6 days after the encounter of Caesarea Philippi Jesus takes 3 disciples to go and pray.
- This was their norm.
- Unknown mountain (Tabor or Hermon)

Matthew 17:2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

- Transfigured means transformed, metamorphosis.
- The disciples have seen Jesus the man.
- But he is more than that
- He is “Christ son of the living God.”
- Christ's divine majesty is becoming visibly manifest.
- God wants our confidence to become rooted in who Jesus is rather than in what our circumstances look like.

Matthew 17:3 And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

1. Moses: the great covenant leader. The one through whom God brought Israel out of Egypt, met with God at Sinai, received Torah and the 10 Commandments and his face shone after encountering God. God buried him personally.
2. Elijah: the great prophetic figure. The man who confronted Ahab, called Israel back from idolatry. He was so great he was expected to return before the great day of the Lord. Was taken up to heaven without dying.

- Both men had powerful encounters with God.
- Moses represents the Law
- Elijah represents the prophets.
- Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets.
- Both Moses and Elijah had significant mountain encounters with God.
- Moses at Sinai.
- Elijah at Horeb.

- Matthew is presenting Jesus as greater than Moses and Elijah.
- Moses told Israel in Deuteronomy 18:15 “The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me… Him you shall listen to.”
- The entire biblical narrative is pointing to Jesus.

Matthew 17:4-8 And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” 5 He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” 8 And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

- Peter wants to preserve this moment.
- God’s visible presence is there.
- Peter is overwhelmed and offers identical tents to all three figures.

- God interrupts him.
- He repeats what he said at Jesus' baptism but adds that they should listen to Jesus.
- Luke gives us an additional detail: Moses and Elijah were speaking with Jesus about His "departure", literally His "exodus", which He was going to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Matthew 17:9-13 9 And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead." 10 And the disciples asked him, "Then why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?" 11 He answered, "Elijah does come, and he will restore all things. 12 But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands." 13 Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.

- JTB came in the Elijah role.

- Its not reincarnation but a prophet of the same spirit and power as Elijah.
- Confronting corruption, calling to repentance, preparing the way of the Lord.
- Why keep it silent? Because glory without the cross would give an incomplete picture of Jesus.

2 Peter 1:16-18 16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," 18 we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

- Peter never forgot what he saw.
- Fix your eyes on Jesus.