

Matthew 17:1-13

“The Glorious God Who Dwells With Man”

At Caesarea Philippi, the disciples had just affirmed that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God [16:1-12]. Jesus wants them to understand that He is more than a mere mortal man like Moses or Elijah, but is in fact God in the flesh. The reality of the glorious God who dwells with man can transform your life forever.

Study Guide Qs

1. Why do you think that Jesus wanted the disciples to see His glory?
2. Describe an experience when you spent some significant time with Jesus. What did you do, and what happened?
3. How can we learn to hear Jesus' voice better?
4. How has the glorious God who dwells with man transformed you?
5. How would you like to be transformed in this coming season?

Pastor Robb Oram Mobil Ave. campus

subject: the glorious transfiguration of Jesus

objective: behold the glory of Jesus this Christmas

the glory of Jesus was revealed by...

I. His transfiguration (1-3)

II. His Father (4-8)

III. His prophecy (9-13)

A. “Elijah” came before Jesus' 1st coming (John the Baptist); Elijah will come before Jesus' 2nd coming

Pastor Bruce Zachary Lewis Rd. campus

Jesus is Our King and the Community Realm: Jesus came, lived among us, and loved us. How do you plan to love your community this season?

Intro. At this time of year, we are especially likely to marvel at the incarnation. The idea that God clothed Himself in humanity and came to dwell with man is truly marvelous. The apostle John highlighted this truth as an eyewitness as he began his gospel account: **And the Word became 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 [Jn. 1:14].** What was John referring to? How can this truth impact your life?

Subject: The King's Glory Revealed

Object: Be transformed by the glorious God who dwells with man

Thesis: At Caesarea Philippi, the disciples had just affirmed that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God [16:1-12]. Jesus wants them to understand that He is more than a mere mortal man like Moses or Elijah, but is in fact God in the flesh.

How can experiencing God's glory transform a person?

A. Jesus reveals His glory [1-2] 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.

1. Jesus' glory encourages and strengthens your faith: Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a high mountain [1]. Likely nearby Mt. Hermon that has a summit of 9,400 feet. Why only Peter, James and John? These three had the privilege of being there when Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead and saw His power over death [Lu. 8]. They will also be the only three when Jesus goes further into the Garden of Gethsemane and they see His submission to the Father even unto death [Matt. 26]. Here Jesus is preparing them. James will be the first martyr of the church [Ac.12]. And Peter and John will be leaders in the early Church prepared to surrender their lives if necessary to follow Jesus.

a. **Note:** Sometimes you need time away with Jesus to perceive His glory

2. Jesus' glory is the glory of God displayed: Jesus was **transfigured before them.** The Greek *metamorphoo* refers to a change of form. Jesus face shone like the sun and His clothes became white as light [2]. Imagine, as best you can, the scene. They saw Jesus in a new light, literally and figuratively. Moses reflected God's glory when he descended from Mt. Sinai [Ex. 34], but Jesus radiates God's glory.

b. **Note:** Sometimes you need to remove obstacles to perceive His glory [Is. 6:1]

B. Jesus is the One we must hear [3-13]

1. Jesus' glory will fulfill the law and the prophets [3-5] 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!” The disciples saw Moses and Elijah speaking with Jesus [3]. Luke tells us they spoke of Jesus’ death and departure [Lu. 9:31]. Moses was the great lawgiver. The Mosaic Law reveals God’s standard of perfection to reveal our need for a Savior, the Messiah. Moses died without entering the Promised Land [Deut. 34:5-6], but God raised him in glory in the Promised Land. Elijah was considered the greatest prophet as he called people to repent and return to God. And God took him up without experiencing death [2 Kings 2] [a foreshadow of the rapture]. Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection fulfilled what Moses and Elijah had sought to prepare man for. Peter tells Jesus it is good for them to be there and suggests they construct three tabernacles, one for each [4]. Perhaps Peter was expecting a lengthy stay, or wanted to erect a memorial for the event. The problem is that Peter is suggesting that Jesus, Moses, and Elijah are equals. Then the Father is manifest as a bright cloud that overshadows them. The Father’s glory is revealed by the cloud [Ex.13:21, 40:35, 1Ki. 8:10]. The father declares, **“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”** The Father affirms that Jesus is not merely another prophet, but that Jesus is the one we must hear [Heb. 1:1-2].

Deut. 18:15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear. [Moses’ prophecy re Messiah]

2. Jesus’ glory should produce reverence not fear [6-9] 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. 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.” The disciples fall on the ground greatly afraid [6], but Jesus came and touched them – the comforting touch of God [7]; and encouraged them not to be afraid [7]. Then when they looked up they only saw Jesus.

They were not to tell anyone until after the resurrection [9]

3. Jesus explains about Elijah [10-13] 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. After seeing Elijah on the mount with Jesus, they ask about the prophecy that Elijah will come as a forerunner for the Messiah [Mal. 4:5-6]. Jesus explains that John the Baptist came in the Spirit and power of Elijah [Lu. 1:17] as Jesus’ forerunner. Malachi’s prophecy relates to the Second Coming of Jesus related to God’s judgment at the end of the Great Tribulation. Rev. 11 describes two witnesses who precede Christ’s Second Coming during the Great Tribulation and many commentators believe one of them will be Elijah (and the other Enoch since neither experienced death on earth [Heb. 9:27]).

C. How can experiencing God’s glory transform you?

1. You revere (worship) God.

2. You are comforted knowing the glorious God who dwells with you.
3. You are humbled [Is. 5-6].
4. You reflect God's glory [Ex. 33:18-23].
5. You serve God [Is. 6:1-8].
6. You share your experience [Jn. 1:14].