

Session 15: The Testing of the Disciples and the Transfiguration of Jesus

Matthew 16:13-17:13; Mark 8:27-9:13; Luke 9:18-36

Jesus Tests the Disciples' Faith

Matthew 16:13-20	Mark 8:27-30	Luke 9:18-21
<p><i>13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, saying, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"</i></p> <p><i>14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."</i></p> <p><i>15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"</i></p> <p><i>16 And Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."</i></p> <p><i>17 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.</i></p> <p><i>18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.</i></p> <p><i>19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."</i></p> <p><i>20 Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ.</i></p>	<p><i>27 And Jesus went out, along with His disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way He was asking His disciples, saying to them, "Who do people say that I am?"</i></p> <p><i>28 And they told Him, saying, "John the Baptist; and others say Elijah; but others, one of the prophets."</i></p> <p><i>29 And He continued questioning them, "But who do you say that I am?"</i></p> <p><i>Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ."</i></p> <p><i>30 And He warned them to tell no one about Him.</i></p>	<p><i>18 And it happened that while He was praying alone, the disciples were with Him, and He questioned them, saying, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"</i></p> <p><i>19 And they answered and said, "John the Baptist, and others say Elijah, but others, that one of the prophets of old has risen again."</i></p> <p><i>20 And He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered and said, "The Christ of God."</i></p> <p><i>21 But He warned them and directed them not to tell this to anyone,</i></p> <p><i>22 saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and be raised up on the third day."</i></p>

Jesus Foretells His Rejection, Death, Resurrection

Matthew 16:21-26	Mark 8:31-37	Luke 9:22-25
<p>21 From that time Jesus began to show 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 up on the third day.</p> <p>22 And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You."</p> <p>23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."</p>	<p>31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.</p> <p>32 And He was stating the matter openly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.</p> <p>33 But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Take Up Your Cross</i></p> <p>34 And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.</p> <p>35 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.</p> <p>36 "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?</p> <p>37 "For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?</p>	<p>22 saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and be raised up on the third day."</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Take Up Your Cross</i></p> <p>23 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.</p> <p>24 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.</p> <p>25 "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?</p>

The Gates of Hades shall not prevail against the Church.

Isaiah 38:10 – The Gates of Sheol = death

Jesus encourages his followers that, irrespective of how Christianity may be attacked in a given place and time, the church universal will never be extinguished.

I Will Give You The Keys...Whatever you bind...

It is possible that Jesus envisions the unlocking of the powers of heaven to combat the attacking powers of the underworld.

A long and somewhat stalemated debate has centered around the future perfect passive verbs in v. 19. In Classical Greek a reasonable translation of these two verbs (“will be bound” and “will be loosed”) would be “will have been bound” or “will have been loosed” (NIV marg.). Jesus would then be stressing how God’s sovereign initiative is worked out in the church. But in Hellenistic Greek this construction was often roughly equivalent to a simple future passive (as in the main text of the NIV), in which case Jesus teaches that God has delegated his authority to the church, which he leaves to act on its own initiative to bring people into the kingdom, which entrance he then ratifies. A mediating solution, supported by recent linguistic research, may be best with the translation *will be in a state of boundedness/loosedness*.

Jesus’ point, then, will simply be that God promises that all who enter the kingdom do so in accordance with God’s sovereign will, without specifying one way or the other whose action caused whose response.

The transfer of authority to the disciples before they bear their own crosses.

The Coming of the Son of Man

Matthew 16:27-28	Mark 8:38-9:1	Luke 9:26-27
<p><i>27 “For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.</i></p> <p><i>28 “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”</i></p>	<p><i>38 “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>CHAPTER 9 The Transfiguration</i></p> <p><i>1 And Jesus was saying to them, “Truly I say to you,</i></p>	<p><i>26 “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.</i></p> <p><i>27 “But I say to you truthfully, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.”</i></p>

	<i>there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God having come in power.”</i>	
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The Transfiguration of Jesus

Matthew 17:1-8	Mark 9:2-8	Luke 9:28-36
<p><i>1 And six days later Jesus brought with Him Peter and James and John his brother and led them up on a high mountain by themselves.</i></p> <p><i>2 And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.</i></p> <p><i>3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.</i></p> <p><i>4 And Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three booths here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”</i></p> <p><i>5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom</i></p>	<p><i>2 And six days later, Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, and brought them up on a high mountain alone by themselves. And He was transfigured before them;</i></p> <p><i>3 and His garments were shining intensely white, as no launderer on earth can whiten them.</i></p> <p><i>4 And Elijah appeared to them along with Moses and they were conversing with Jesus.</i></p> <p><i>5 And Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three booths, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”</i></p> <p><i>6 For he did not know what to answer; for they became terrified.</i></p> <p><i>7 Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is My</i></p>	<p><i>28 Now it happened some eight days after these words, that taking along Peter and John and James, He went up on the mountain to pray.</i></p> <p><i>29 And it happened that while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing became white and gleaming.</i></p> <p><i>30 And behold, two men were talking with Him, and they were Moses and Elijah,</i></p> <p><i>31 who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to fulfill at Jerusalem.</i></p> <p><i>32 Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep, but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him.</i></p> <p><i>33 And it happened that as they were leaving Him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three booths: one for You, and one for Moses, and</i></p>

<p><i>I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"</i> <i>6 And when the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified.</i> <i>7 And Jesus came to them and touched them and said, "Get up, and do not be afraid."</i> <i>8 And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone.</i></p>	<p><i>beloved Son, listen to Him!"</i> <i>8 And all at once when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, except Jesus alone.</i></p>	<p><i>one for Elijah"—not realizing what he was saying.</i> <i>34 While he was saying this, a cloud formed and began to overshadow them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.</i> <i>35 Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!"</i> <i>36 And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and reported to no one in those days any of the things which they had seen.</i></p>
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The few disciples got a foreshadow of Jesus’ resurrected state. A preview, if you will, of the power and glory that He would return to after His resurrection. This was the immediate fulfillment of Jesus’ words about seeing His Kingdom coming.

The ultimate fulfillment of this verse will be the second coming of Jesus in Power when He returns as a conquering King.

The Confusion of The Three Disciples Concerning Elijah and the Resurrection

Matthew 17:9-13	Mark 9:9-13	Luke 9:36
<p><i>9 And as they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead."</i> <i>10 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"</i></p>	<p><i>9 And as they were coming down from the mountain, He gave them orders not to recount to anyone what they had seen, until the Son of Man rose from the dead.</i> <i>10 And they seized upon that statement, arguing with one another what rising from the dead meant.</i></p>	<p><i>36 And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and reported to no one in those days any of the things which they had seen.</i></p>

<p>11 And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things; 12 but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also, the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." 13 Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.</p>	<p>11 And they began asking Him, saying, "Why is it that the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" 12 And He said to them, "Elijah does first come and restore all things. And yet how is it written of the Son of Man that He will suffer many things and be treated with contempt? 13 "But I say to you that Elijah has indeed come, and they did to him whatever they wished, just as it is written of him."</p>	
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Memory Verse:

And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?

Luke 9:23-25

Discussion Questions

1. How is the Church advancing against the Gates of Hades?
2. Is the church thriving or is our culture and this world putting to death the Church and Christianity?
3. Have you ever felt like you lucked into making a good decision? Like somehow you seemed to know God's will without actually knowing everything? As if God was binding what you bound and loosed what you loosed? (Sovereignty vs Free Will)
4. Are you prepared for Jesus to return today and judge you? What is still in your life that you would like to be gone before He returns?