

Jesus' Mountain Top Transfiguration—Part 2

Matthew 17:1-13

I. Peter's _____ Request (v. 4)

- a. The Feast of Tabernacles (cf. Lev. 23:33–44; Zech. 14:9, 16)
- b. Scholars agree that Peter's question was foolish, but there are several schools of thought on why he asked it:
 - i. He wanted to extend the moment (cf. Luke 9:33)
 - ii. He was trying to detour Jesus from the cross (cf. Matt. 16:22ff; John 18:10)
 - iii. He viewed Moses, Elijah, and Jesus as equals
- c. Regardless of motivation, Peter missed the point:
 - i. Jesus is the Son of God
 - ii. He fulfilled the Law and the Prophets
 - iii. He was going to Jerusalem to die for our sins

II. God's _____ Answer (v. 5)

- a. ***bright cloud overshadowed them*** = the Shekinah Glory of God (cf. Ex. 13:21–22; 24:15–18; 40:34–38; Num. 9:17; Deut. 1:33; 1 Kings. 8:10–13; Isa. 4:4–5; Luke 1:35; Rev. 14:14–16)
- b. ***My beloved Son*** Jesus' baptism (cf. Matt. 3:17)
- c. ***listen to Him!*** = listening to Jesus through His Holy Word is the key to following Him (2 Peter 1:16–21; Matt. 11:15; 13:9)

III. The Disciples' _____ Response (v. 6)

- a. Jesus calls us "friends" but that should not take away fear, awe, and reverence (cf. John 15:14–15; Prov. 1:7; 1 Peter 1:17; Isa. 6:5; cf. Ezek. 1:28; Ex. 33:20–23; Judg. 6:22–23; 13:22; John. 1:18; 6:46; Col. 1:15; 1 Tim. 6:16; 1 John. 4:12; Rev. 1:17))
- b. ***terrified = phobeomai (φοβέομαι)*** = "be afraid, state of fear, be alarmed (Matt. 10:28; 17:6; Acts 5:26); ***respect***, show reverence for (Luke 18:2); ***worship***, profound reverence (Luke 1:50; Acts 13:16)"

IV. Jesus' _____ Reaction (vs. 7-9)

- a. Jesus not only comforted His disciples with words, He also touched them (cf. Matt. 8 & 9)
- b. The Messianic Secret (cf. Matt. 8:4; 9:30; 12:16; 16:20; Mark 1:44; 3:12; 5:43; 7:36; 8:30; 9:9; Luke 4:41; 5:14; 8:56; 9:21)
- c. By keeping His Transfiguration secret Jesus overcame the temptation to bypass suffering and become King without the Cross (cf. Matt. 4:1–11; John 6:15:12:12–19)

V. The Disciples' _____ Question (v. 10)

- a. They had grown up hearing Malachi's prophecy of Elijah being the Messiah's forerunner and now they were confused (cf. 3:1; Mal. 4:5–6; Matt. 11:14ff; Mark 1:2–4; Luke 1:17; 7:27)

VI. Jesus' _____ Explanation (vs. 11–13)

- a. Jesus reassures His disciples that John the Baptist came in the spirit of Elijah (cf. Matt. 11:10–15; Mark 9:11–13; Luke 1:17)
- b. Then He quickly turned back to the main thrust of His Transfiguration: Jesus is on a collision course with the cross!
- c. ***"Elijah is coming and will restore all things;***
 - i. The two lampstands, olive trees, and anointed ones of Zechariah 4 (cf. Zech. 4:1–14); are the two witnesses of Revelation 11:4
 - ii. The two witnesses may be: Moses & Elijah
 1. they will bring plagues upon the earth like Moses did (cf. Ex. 7–12)
 2. they will cause a 3 and a half year, or roughly ***twelve hundred and sixty day*** drought, just like Elijah did (cf. 1 Kings 17–18; James 5:17)
 3. they will call down fire on the earth, like Elijah did (cf. 1 Kings 18:38ff.)
 4. Jewish tradition expected both Moses and Elijah to return in the last days (cf. Deut. 18:15–18; Mal. 4:5–6; John 1:21)
 5. they were both present at the Transfiguration