

TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS

Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36



BIBLE VERSE COMMITTING TO MEMORY

Matthew 17:2

There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.



STORY LESSON BIBLE STORY

TRANSFIGURED

<tran(t)s- 'fi-gyərd>

Kind of like disfigured—meaning to mar or impair a figure or body or something. Trans-figured—to *completely* change your figure or body or something.

Jesus took Peter, James and John with him up to a high mountain. Perhaps the three disciples thought they were going with Jesus to pray. He had certainly done this before.

Nope. This time was different. When they arrived at the mountain, Jesus was *transfigured* before them.

“His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light” (Matthew 17:2).

Or as The Message paraphrase says it:



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“His appearance *changed from the inside out*, right before their eyes. Sunlight poured from his face. His clothes were filled with light” (Matthew 17:2, italics added).

- Perhaps Jesus was glorified; temporarily at least.
- Maybe his divinity, which was normally veiled, was revealed.
- Maybe the light of heaven, of God from heaven, God’s throne, cracked through the humanity of Jesus into this earthly world—the shadow.

Whatever transfiguration truly means we may never know, but we can imagine.



The account goes on to say that Jesus was then seen talking with Moses and Elijah. Peter got all excited and said, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah” (Matthew 17:4). Peter wanted to hang out there for a while. He seemed to like being there.

Then a voice came out of the clouds that was reminiscent of when Jesus was baptized: “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” (Matthew 17:5). Upon hearing this the three, scared disciples fell to the ground. Jesus reached

down and touched them and told them to get up. As they were doing so they noticed no one else except them and Jesus.

Jesus made it clear to the three disciples as they were coming down the mountain not to tell anyone about what had happened until after the "Son of Man has been raised from the dead" (Matthew 17:9).

Then the disciples ask Jesus some questions about the role of 'Elijah' coming first before the Messiah. Jesus told them that the 'Elijah' had already come. "Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist" (Matthew 17:13).

What is the significance of the Transfiguration of Jesus? Maybe God wanted to show the three, select disciples a taste of glory, or perhaps an affirmation that Jesus was the Son of God.

Perhaps there is a significant connection as to why these two specific Hebrew prophets (Moses and Elijah) were the ones who Jesus was talking to:

- Maybe they were the some of the ones who were transfigured in this life before entering into life eternal.
- Maybe they just missed Jesus and wanted to see him and give him some encouragement from the throne of heaven.
- What if it was because Moses gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments and Elijah asked God to send down fire from heaven to turn Israel back to the one true God?
- Maybe they were both wilderness people.





LIFE APPLICATION

MAKING IT REAL

Listen to God's Son

Seriously, this may be the greatest truth in this specific passage. God doesn't speak from the clouds very often, but when He does we should listen. And what God said was: "Listen to Jesus." This was spoken very clearly and without any question. Listen to Jesus. (Listening implies doing, by the way).

Taste of Heaven

I think this account gives us a rare glimpse into the realm of "heaven," "glory," or "paradise." I wonder what Peter, James and John imagine later about when they remembered what they saw on the mountain that day. Do you think they had a feeling or a mental picture of what living with God in our glorified bodies would be like? I wonder... What do you imagine heaven to be like?



QUESTIONS

REMEMBERING

- 1. Who went with Jesus to the mountain that day?** Peter, James and John
- 2. What happened to Jesus on that high mountain?** He was transfigured
- 3. Who "visited" with Jesus when he was transfigured?** Moses and Elijah
- 4. What did the voice of God say when Jesus was transfigured?**
"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"
(Matthew 17:5).
- 5. What did Jesus tell his disciples as they left the mountain?**
Not to tell anyone about what had happened "until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead" (Matthew 17:9).
- 6. What do you think heaven is like? What would it look like to be transfigured?**



COLORING SHEET

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