

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ The Transfiguration

Last Time: The mystery of the Kingdom of God and
a summary off all the mysteries revealed at Caesarea Philippi

This time...the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ – evidence of the revelations at Caesarea Philippi

We will be in Matt 17, Mark 9, and Luke 9

Matt 17

v1 And after six days:

After Ch 16:13-28 in Caesarea Philippi on the southern slope of Mount Hermon,
Jesus and His 12 disciples move on
During those 6 days, Jesus undoubtedly redeems the time by continuing to teach
and pour Himself into the 12

Then Jesus separates unto Himself

- Peter...spokesman, leader, reveal-ee (Ch 16:15-17)
- James...the 1st of the 12 (that will become 11) that will be martyred
by Herod Antipas for his faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 12:1-3)
- John..."the disciple whom Jesus loved", recipient of
 - Gospel of John – Jesus the Son of God
 - 1-3 John – to combat poison of Gnosticism in early Church
 - Revelation of Jesus Christ – Church Age, 70th Week/DoL,
the end of all things

and led them up a high mountain

aka Mount of Transfiguration...

Mount Hermon, via the ascent on the western slope

Tradition says it is Mount Tabor, southwest of SoG and Capernaum and Tiberias
Problems with "tradition" of men

- source of most Biblical sites is Constantine's mother in
4th Century...impulse/feelings vs facts
- 1400' above sea level vs 9200' above sea level (Hermon)
- very rarely snow vs usually on Hermon until Aug
- Mark 9:30-33a..."through Galilee to Capernaum"
 - Hermon in Tetrarch of Philip
 - Tabor in Galilee, realm of Herod Antipas

v2 transfigured...face...raiment:

There with only His “Inner Circle”, Jesus was
transfigured/transformed/changed in form
PJ&J were eyewitnesses of “Son of Man” revealed as
“Son of God” (evidence of Ch 16:16)
in His Divine glory, the glory of His Father (evidence of Ch 16:27)

- face as radiant as the sun
Ps 4:6 LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance
 upon us (plus 3 other times in Psalms)
Dan 2:22 the light dwelleth with Him
- clothing as white as light
Ps 104:1-2 Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God,
 thou art very great; thou art clothed with
 honor and majesty. Who covers *thymself* with
 light as *with* a garment:

The message of the Transfiguration

Ps 27:1 The LORD *is* my light and my salvation
1 John 1:5 God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all

v3 Moses and Elijah:

Peter, James, and John see (eyesight) Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus

How did Peter, James, and John know that it was Moses and Elijah?
Name tags?
Listening to the conversation

Did this not blow their minds?!

Putting ourselves in their shoes, can you imagine being in the presence of
Moses and Elijah?!

Can you imagine the surprise/shock/awe of these Jewish men?!

v4 Then answered Peter:

I’m sorry, did Jesus, Moses, or Elijah ask Peter or the 3 disciples a question?
After all, Moses and Elijah were “talking with Him” (v3)...not with “them”

To what is Peter responding?
Why is Peter talking?
Why did he say this?

Let’s keep reading (when we have questions, we keep reading)

v5-6 bright cloud overshadowed...a voice...My beloved Son...hear ye Him:

While Peter is speaking, he gets an answer...not from Jesus or Moses or Elijah,
but from God the Father Himself!

- a bright cloud (for Jewish reader): the Shechinah glory of the LORD
 - led Israel out of bondage in Egypt (Ex 13:21-22, Ex 14:19-31)
 - filled the Tabernacle and led them in the wilderness (Ex 40)
 - resided above the mercy seat (Lev 16:1-2) to meet with HP
 - filled Solomon's Temple (1 Kings 8:6-11)
 - left the Temple about 625 years earlier (Ezk 9-11)
after Israel's prolonged and widespread apostasy
 - did not fill the 2nd Temple (Ezra's days)
 - but promised to in Hag 2:7-9
 - kept His promise in John 2
 - glory: Messiah, when He cleansed it
 - Herod's Temple was a remodel of 2nd Temple
 - had not yet returned...nor will until God's King builds
His house (Ezk 40-48, returns Ezk 43)

Note: Rev 13:11-15 (Matt 24:15) is counterfeit glory,
temple of counterfeit Christ, lying signs/wonders

- overshadowed...
 - "enveloped"
 - vs "invest" as did Mary (Luke 1:35)
- a voice...
 - of God the Father, audibly to all present
 - not a form or figure (John 1:18)
- This is My Beloved Son...
 - Personal testimony of Ch 16:13-17
 - Col 2:9 in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily
- in Whom I am well pleased...
 - rejected by men (Ch 16:21, Is 53) but accepted by God
- hear ye Him...believe Him
 - follow Him (Ch 16:24), without doubt or hesitation
 - Heb 1:1-3 Son, Heir, Creator/Sustainer, 'Identical'
 - Heb 2:10 path to follow

Whatever amazement/awe the 3 may have felt to see/hear Moses and Elijah,
when they heard Him (vs "it") they were overpowered with fear and
awe...and down onto their faces they (rightly) go

v7-8 be not afraid...Jesus only:

After the evidence and testimony of the Father of the revelations given at Caesarea Philippi given, Jesus gently touches Peter, James, and John, and comforts them

Fear Not
Believe

When PJ&J respond to the kind voice of their Master, they

- do not see
 - the cloud of the LORD
 - Moses
 - Elijah
- do see
 - Jesus...only

Now let's go to Mark's account for some additional information

Mark 9

v2-3 shining...white as snow...no fuller:

In this account of the Transfiguration,

- nothing is recorded of Jesus' face
- His clothing is described as
 - shining
 - whiter than snow (on Mount Hermon this is meaningful, not on Mount Tabor)
 - whiter than any soap maker or laundry or dry cleaner could possibly make them

v4-6 talking with Jesus...Peter...wist not what to say...sore afraid:

Notice again, Moses and Elijah are talking with...Jesus (not PJ&J)

So why did Peter start talking?

Why is he interrupting a conversation that does not include him?

He/they were very afraid, beholding this scene of Jesus in His glory speaking with Moses (!) and Elijah (!)

Why did Peter say this?

He did not know what to say...but obviously felt like he had to say something

Can we relate to Peter?

Ever spoken when not spoken to, talked out of turn?
Ever talked when you should not have, wagging your tongue instead of
biting it, your tongue in D when your brain is in N or P?
Ever joined a conversation without being invited to join it?
Ever talked...just to hear yourself talk?
Ever rambled on about something when you were nervous?

News Flash: We need not talk!

Sometimes we just need to bite our tongue!
When you don't know what to say, don't say anything

v7-8 a cloud...a voice...suddenly:

The glory of the LORD appears, God the Father speaks

- audibly
- 2 non-negotiable absolutes
 - Jesus Christ is the Son of God, God the Son
 - (you mere men) hear/believe/obey Him

Then suddenly (after being touched by Jesus and them looking up),
the whole scene was once again “normal” vs supernatural.

PJ&J looked around, didn't see anyone but Jesus and themselves

Was this a vision?

Did they really see Moses and Elijah?

Did they really hear the voice of God?

Let's go to the other passage, in Luke

Luke 9

v28 about an eight days after these sayings:

“after these sayings” (v18-27) tells us that the Transfiguration came
“about 8 days” after the revelations at Caesarea Philippi
(6 in Matt and Mark is about 8 and depends on when one starts counting;
no contradiction)

We also learn here that Jesus took PJ&J up the mountain...to pray
Again, Jesus desires to commune with His Father

And it is reasonable to think He and the Father talked about the 12 and their
reaction (in Matthew) to God’s Plan of Redemption (v22),
or perhaps about their mindset to the entirety of the things revealed at
Caesarea Philippi

1. the Christ...the Son of the Living God
2. the Church...a new work, a spiritual body
3. the Plan of Redemption...rejected of men, suffer, killed, raised again
the 3rd day
4. Salvation...God’s work but man must respond (deny Self, pick up
Cross, follow Jesus, lose life/will)
5. Kingdom of God...rather than the kingdom to Israel

v29 as He prayed...countenance...raiment:

In this account we learn that while the Father and the Son talked/communed,
Jesus was transfigured/transformed

- His countenance/presence/person was altered, becoming something
different
- His clothing was white/light and glistening/glistening/radiant

Transfiguration of Jesus is described differently in the 3 Gospels that record it
There are no contradictions or confusion
How can human language express the Divine glory that is beyond
human description?

Then PJ&J are eyewitnesses to another of Jesus’ conversations on this mountain

v30-31 two men...Moses and Elijah:

This account tells us that Moses and Elijah

- “appeared in glory”
 - What does this mean?
 - Not in their glorified bodies, before Jesus received His (1 Cor 15:20-23, Acts 26:23)
 - Enveloped in the glory of Jesus, the Word of God made flesh?
 - Moses: represents the Law
 - Elijah: represents the Prophets
- “spoke of His decease which He should accomplish in Jerusalem”
 - by “two men” who had experienced mysterious departures from earth
 - Moses: Deut 34:1-7 (buried by the Lord), Jude 9
 - Elijah: 2 Kings 2:1, 11 (whirlwind, chariot/horses fire)
 - decease
 - “death”
 - “exodus” or “exit” or “departing”...

What were they talking about?

The “exodus” of Jesus Christ from earth:

His suffering, death, burial, resurrection, ascension

Resurrection (victory over death, return to living)

Ascension (return to heaven)

Testimony of the Law and the Prophets of v22

v22 as the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets

(Matt 5:17, John 5:39)

foretaste of Phil 2:5-11

- Is 55:8-9
- The deception of Matt 16:22-23
Redemption: things of men vs things of God
- The certainty of Matt 16:24-25
deny, cross, follow, lose to save

Side note: “two men” give testimony to

- a) the death of Jesus Christ the Messiah, as revealed in Scripture
Luke 9:30-31
- b) the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Mount Moriah)
Luke 24:1-7...two men appearing in glory speaking of CP
- c) the ascension and return of Jesus Christ (Mount of Olives)
Acts 1:9-11...two men appearing in glory
- d) the imminent return of Jesus Christ to establish His earthly kingdom, the 2 Witnesses of Rev 11:3-12 (Law and Prophets during DoL) (Mount Moriah)

v32-33 heavy with sleep...awake...saw His glory:

Additional information – PJ&J were tired, very tired, unable to stay awake.

A foretaste of the Garden of Gethsemane, the beginning of His suffering

Somehow awakened and alert, they see Jesus in His glory and Moses and Elijah
("the two men") with Him

Then, the conversation between Jesus, Moses and Elijah

as they departed from Him:

As Moses and Elijah are "exiting", departing from Jesus, Peter opens his
mouth..."not knowing what he said."

As if he wanted Moses and Elijah to hang out longer

v34-35 feared as they entered the cloud...hear Him:

Again, before Peter could finish his mindless comment, the Father from heaven
arrives

The very presence of God...the Father and the Son...on Mount Hermon

The glory of the LORD enveloped PJ&J and they entered into the presence of the
LORD...and promptly fell on their faces (Matt 17:6)

The God Who does not reside in tabernacles made by man
(Acts 17:24, 1 Kings 8:27) testifies that Jesus is:

The Beloved Son of the Father...

of Whom the Law and the Prophets spoke (John 5:39)

Who came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets (Matt 5:17)

Who is the end/completion/perfection/satisfaction of the Law for
righteousness for those who believe (Rom 10:4)

the only name under heaven given among men whereby we must
be saved (Acts 4:12)

is Whom we are to give our undivided attention, devotion, and obedience

Although they appeared in glory and spoke with Jesus about the most momentous
of all things, Moses and Elijah are not equal to Jesus

They are men of like passions as us

He is God that was made 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 (recorded by John, eyewitness of the Transfiguration)

by Whom we have a more sure Word of prophesy (2 Peter 1:13-19),
the testimony of Jesus being the spirit of prophesy (Rev 19:11)

v36 the voice was past, Jesus was found alone...had seen:

The cloud...the Shechinah glory of God that

1. led Israel out of bondage in Egypt
2. filled the Tabernacle and led them in the wilderness
3. resided above the mercy seat
4. filled Solomon's Temple
5. after Israel's prolonged and widespread apostasy, left the Temple
6. how Jesus would return to heaven...
7. and then return back to earth

vanishes as suddenly as it appeared

Afterwards, there on Mount Hermon that day, the only other person was –

Jesus, the Beloved Son of the Father...as testified by

1. God the Father
2. Moses/Law
3. Elijah/Prophets

Deut 19:15 at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses,
shall the matter be established

Had PJ&J seen a vision? NO!

They saw the glory of the LORD

They saw Moses and Elijah..."two men"

They saw the true God

1 John 5:20 we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life

They were eyewitnesses to a historical event, of which we have a faithful record

Heb 2:1-4

This morning, we have been fed, refreshed, encouraged, comforted, convicted

Now, the week starts and we are to go from here and be witnesses of Jesus Christ

As Jesus sent Paul, so He sends us

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me

Refreshed, we go back out to the mission field in which we have been planted

If it is in your heart to witness of Jesus Christ this coming week, please come up...

I want to pray with and for you