

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Elijah Explained

Last Time: The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ and the witness of God the Father, Moses/Law, and Elijah/Prophets...His identity and His mission

Any to give testimony of their sharing Jesus as we prayed after service last week?

This time...a question about Elijah is answered while they are “heading back to work”

We will be in Matt 17 and Mark 9

Matt 17

v9 came down from the mountain...no man until:
Jesus, PJ&J are headed back down the mountain
(Mount of Transfiguration, Mount Hermon)

It is a high mountain so it will take some time...time for Jesus to focus them on the Father's will/work after this glorious “mountain top experience” being in the presence of God

On the way down, Jesus gives them strict orders that they are to tell no one what they saw on the mountain...
at least not until He was risen again from the dead

Jesus focuses the minds of these 3 on His identity and His mission

- v5b...the testimony of God the Father Himself that Jesus is
 - the Son of God
 - to be heard/believed/followed/obeyed
- He is also the Son of Man...the Servant of God sent to do the will of His Father
- His work as Kinsman-Redeemer (Matt 16:21)
God's Plan of Redemption
- His exodus that must be accomplished in Jerusalem (Luke 9:30-31), which we know (NT Scripture) to be His exodus from
 - the living
 - then the grave
 - then from earth

v10 Why then say the scribes:

PJ&J, coming off their mountain top experience, are discussing

- what happened on the mountain
- the hope of all Jews (the Messiah)

in the light of Scripture...as taught them by the scribes

Thinking with them, backwards in time

Jesus the Christ/Messiah (as revealed on Hermon and at Caesarea Philippi)

John the Baptist (one, more likely all 3, were his disciples)

400 years of silence

Mal 4:5-6

Mal 3:1

Back to the present...they saw Elijah, they heard Elijah!

Jesus is the Christ/Messiah is come!

They expect to soon be witnesses of something big, the fulfillment of this

400 year old prophesy!

But...Elijah departed, he did not go with them to do what Malachi prophesied

btw...might this be why Peter unwittingly said what he did in v4?

Not knowing what to say, not knowing what he said

They were only 3 people to see and hear Elijah

What just happened...and what do the words of Malachi mean if not what the scribes taught it meant?

And now...Jesus the Christ has commanded them to keep a lid on all this...

until He the Messiah is risen again from the dead?

(And what does that mean...but they don't ask about that!)

v11 Elijah truly shall come first:

Veiled in the Scripture (OT) is the promised Messiah coming...twice

1. Servant of God...to be rejected, suffer, be killed, raised again 3rd day
2. King of God...Judge, establishing the Kingdom of God on earth from David's throne in Jerusalem

This is clear teaching in the completed canon of Scripture (OT with NT)

At this point in time in Matt 17,

- the Hebrew Scriptures are complete and have been for 400 years
- the Greek Scriptures have yet to be written, 30-60 years in the future

PJ&J have only a "veiled" understanding of Scripture

So Jesus answers their question

Elijah will truly come first, will come before Messiah the King

Mal 4:5-6 WILL certainly happen...at the appointed time – the DoL

Zeph 1:14-18

Jer 23:14-20

Dan 9:24-26

Rev 11:1-8

1 Thes 5:1-3

not a day of triumph for the Jews
completed in the latter days (Heb 11:2)
70 weeks to finish the transgression,
Messiah cut off but not for Himself
“veil” removed; on Jer 23...
their dead bodies *shall lie* in the street of the
great city, which spiritually is called Sodom
and Egypt, where also our Lord was
crucified
DoL, peace and safety, sudden destruction

Obviously, now in Matt 17 is not the DoL

Jesus’ next word...

v12 come already...Likewise shall also the Son of Man suffer:
But I say unto you...”Thus saith the Lord” vs “the scribes say”
Jesus, Who taught as one having authority, not as the scribes (Matt 7:29) teaches
PJ&J that:

1. Elijah has already come

- past tense
- as promised, before Messiah...the Servant of God (Him)
- the religious leaders (“the Jews”)
 - did not recognize him
 - have done whatsoever they would with him
 - mocked (directly)
 - opposed (directly)
 - arrested (indirectly, in cahoots with H. Antipas)
 - murdered (indirectly)
 - in their rebellion against God, treated him just like the
other prophets – Good riddance!

2. He, the Servant of God, will suffer too

Likewise...as Elijah who has already come suffered

He...the Son of Man, the Servant of God

would also suffer at their (the Jews) hands

His teaching in Ch 16:21, foretold by Dan 9:26

The testimony of God the Father, Moses, and Elijah on the
Mount of Transfiguration...that they are to follow!

The mountain top experience is truly over...it is truly time for the disciples of the
Suffering Servant of God to “come down to earth” get back to the serious
business at hand

v13 Then the disciples understood:

Taking into account what Jesus just said and what He has already said

Matt 11:7-14 more than a prophet, His messenger (Mal 3:1)...

Elijah if believe

John 5:33-35 the Jews were curious for awhile, then rejected him

Perhaps recalling John the Baptist's personal testimony

Luke 1:11-17, 76-79

Recalling what John the Baptist had said

John 1:29-36 Lamb of God (2x), Son of God

PJ&J understood that Jesus was speaking of John the Baptist in v12

They understand the words of Jesus regarding Elijah...at least in part

2 Forerunners

Do they understand the words Jesus spoke of Himself?

2 Comings, suffering/dying/raising again in this, the 1st Coming

Mark 9

v9 tell no man what things they had seen:

Imagine the difficulty of this command for these 3 Jewish men!

- seeing Jesus their Master transfigured/transformed right before them, wearing light as a garment, radiating light from His face
- seeing Moses and Elijah "appearing in glory" and talking with Jesus about the things Jesus spoke of to all of them in Caesarea Philippi
- entering into the Shechinah glory of God...that has been absent in Israel for about 625 years at that point in time
- audibly hearing God the Father speaking directly to them
- don't even tell the other 9 disciples

Why not tell a soul?

PJ&J were

- disciples, not yet Apostles
- followers, not yet pastors/leaders
- learners, not yet teachers
- not yet born again
- not yet baptized with the baptism of Jesus

They were not prepared or equipped to share with others all that happened on the Mount of Transfiguration

And the other 9 disciples and the rest of the people were not prepared or equipped to hear such things

- v10 they kept that saying with themselves:
And PJ&J were faithful, obedient to the command of their Master (Luke 9:36)
- They were discussing among themselves what Jesus meant when He said
“until the Son of Man were risen from the dead.”
No details were recorded in Luke 9:30-31, and it seems none were spoken by
Jesus, Moses, and Elijah
(those details of the mystery of God’s Plan of Redemption would be
revealed in their appointed time, later)
- Their discussion of the meaning of what Jesus spoke about Himself must have
been in terms of the fulfillment of Scripture, the timing of Biblical events,
because they asked Jesus a question...
- v11 Elijah must first come:
PJ&J ask about the timing of Elijah’s return
(apparently what happened on the Mount of Transfiguration wasn’t it)
- They do NOT ask what His rising from the dead meant, even though they did
not understand it
Nor did they understand it later in this day (v30-32)
- v12 how it is written:
Jesus answers their question
- Elijah does come first...
as it is written, for God cannot lie
 - He must also suffer and despised/thought of as nothing...
as it is written, for God cannot lie
- “it is written”...the answer is in Scripture, foretold in
Gen 22
Ps 22
Is 53
Dan 9
and elsewhere
- v13 is indeed come...as it is written:
Per Matthew’s account, PJ&J understood Jesus was speaking of John the Baptist
- the voice crying in the wilderness, “Prepare ye the way of the LORD”
 - came in the spirit of Elijah
 - a burning and shining light, gave testimony of the Messiah
 - rejected and despised as Elijah was rejected and despised

Application

For PJ&J

- a glorious mountain top experience in the presence of God
- a coming back down the mountain to the very serious business at hand
- given a deeper understanding of some Scripture and still being unclear of other Scripture

So it is with a walk thru time with the eternal Lord

- Prophets: Heb 11:13-16, 24-27, 35b-40
- Forerunner: gave testimony, suffered, and was killed
- Messiah/Christ: do/say as given by His Father, suffered, was killed, rose again in glory, set the captives of Paradise free (OT believers)
- Apostles: gave testimony, suffered, were killed (or attempted numerous times), are with the Lord in glory
- disciples: give testimony, suffer, perhaps be killed, be with the Lord in glory

We disciples (disciples are made, Matt 28:19-20) have

- a glorious mountain top experience in the presence of God
 - sins forgiven
 - Col 1:10-22 light, kingdom, forgiveness, peace, reconciled
 - made new and righteous...a do-over!
 - 2 Cor 5:17, 21 broken and transformed by Love and grace
 - eternal life given
 - John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life
 - made children of God by new birth of Spirit of God
 - John 1:11-13
- a coming back down the mountain to the very serious business at hand in our walk with the Lord
 - Matt 16:24 deny Self, pick up cross, follow Jesus...
mocked, ridiculed, hated, persecuted
 - John 15:1-8 abide in, bear fruit pleasing to Father
 - John 16:33 will have tribulation, be of good cheer, overcome
 - Acts 5:41-42 rejoiced counted worthy to suffer for His name
 - Acts 14:22 must thru much tribulation enter kingdom
 - Phil 1:29 given not only to believe but to suffer for His sake
 - 2 Tim 3:12 live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution
 - 1 Peter 4:12-13, 19 don't think the fiery trials are strange
 - Phil 3:7-14

- the hope/certainty of glory
 - Col 1:27 mystery...Christ in you, the hope of glory
 - Phil 4:13 can do all things thru Christ who strengthens
 - Rom 8:14-25 adopted children, heirs, joint-heirs with Christ,
 - suffering cannot compare to glory to be revealed,
 - saved by hope/certainty, wait patiently for it

 - 2 Tim 2:12a if suffer with Him, will reign with Him
 - 1 Thes 4:13-18

 - 1 Cor 13:12 now we see through a glass, darkly...now I know in part

 - 2 Tim 4:5-8 watch, endure afflictions, do work of evangelist,
 - fight the good fight, finish your course, keep the
 - faith, know a crown of righteousness is laid up for
 - us who love His appearing

 - James 5:7-8, 10-11a

This “valley” is not our home, we just strangers travelling through

We are looking for Jesus Christ.. now we see through a glass, darkly, but soon face to face

We are NOT looking for Anti-Christ or for Elijah

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...

If you want to receive God’s gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ, please come up...

I want to pray with and for you