



SCRIPTURE Matthew 17:1-8 (NRSV)

1 Six days later, Jesus took with Him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. 2 And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became dazzling white. 3 Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with Him. 4 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 5 While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is My Son, the Beloved; with Him I am well pleased; listen to Him!" 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." 8 And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone.

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Moses, Elijah, and Jesus! Of the three, two figures manifested from the past of the deep roots of their faith. The magnificent Moses, the man who brought to the people the very Law given by the almighty and holy God. The one human creature who closely communed and conversed with the Sovereign Creator. Then Elijah, the quintessential prophet of the one true God, who was so important that he had mysteriously been drawn up in a whirlwind and taken into God's embrace. Two pillars of their faith, significant men of their ancestry, whom Peter, James, and John revered and honored.

Now, the two men of the past standing in the presence of Jesus, the incarnation. This Galilean Rabbi, who in reality was the anointed Son of the living God. The Word of God, sharing God's love in a way new and refreshing, miraculous and supernatural.

One does not have to imagine the astonishment and excitement of Peter, James, and John as they witnessed these three amazing figures standing together before them. Peter's declaration reflects the mood clearly, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

Peter recognized the primacy of each of the three. He desired to hold this moment in time, and to honor all three, Moses, Elijah, and Jesus. But, were all three necessary? Would holding on to all three hinder Peter, James, and John from moving forward into that which was new and refreshing, miraculous and supernatural?

The answer offered by the "voice" of God is unambiguous, "This is My Son, the Beloved; with Him I am well pleased; listen to Him!" Listen to and learn from and heed the message and teaching of Jesus. He will bring clarity and completion to all that was communicated by Moses and Elijah. Peter, James, and John are encouraged to not be held back by the past, but rather to focus their attention on God's presence in their midst in Christ Jesus.

Here in the progression of Lent, this season of intense contemplation for Christians as we prepare for that joyful Eastertide celebrating the resurrection of Christ Jesus, we are encouraged to reflect upon our lives and to recognize that there are some things we have been holding on to that we need to move beyond in order for God to grow us into a deeper fellowship with God, so that we too may experience of God that which is new and refreshing, miraculous and supernatural.

PRAYER

Holy God, guide our spirits to discern where we are holding on to things that are hindering us from experiencing the fullness and abundance of life in communion with You. Help us ever to be centrally attentive to Your new and refreshing, miraculous and supernatural presence in our midst. To You be all glory, honor, and praise. Amen.