

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 1ST-2ND, 2020 // BOOK OF MATTHEW

### TRANSFIGURED (MATTHEW 17:1-13)

#### TRANSITIONS

We've been talking about the major transition of Jesus ministering to Him willingly walking towards His death. The other transition taking place is the development of the church.

- **The cross was the catalyst for not only our salvation, but our ability to be the light in this world by the power and guidance of the promised Holy Spirit.**

#### SOBERING, BUT ENCOURAGING AS WELL

The end of chapter 16 shows Christians the difficult cost of following Jesus, but it also encourages them to stay strong because God is faithful. Six days after the hard lesson, Jesus would give physical evidence to 3 disciples.

- Peter, James, and John were the inner circle of the inner circle. These 3 were about to get a glimpse of eternity.

#### A GLIMPSE OF THE ETERNAL

Transfigure literally means to transform into something more beautiful and elevated. Jesus was giving His most trusted men a glimpse of the Kingdom and His fullness.

- Imagine the sight of Jesus' face shining "like the sun" as His clothes "became white as light." Matthew also tells us that Jesus was not alone.

#### THE OLD AND NEW

The transfiguration probably took place on Mount Hermon. While on the 9200 ft tall mountain, Moses and Elijah also appeared as a cloud (shekinah) encompassed them all.

- Moses and Elijah represent the OT and show that Jesus is greater than the prophets and the Law. The 3 disciples represent the NT church.

#### THE VOICE OF GOD

Peter didn't know what to do, so he offered to build a shelter for Jesus and the prophets. While he was talking, the voice of God interrupted.

- In almost every case in the Bible, when people heard God, saw a glimpse of Him, or even saw an angel, they were either "terrified" or they "fell down like dead men." **This should make us skeptical of casual "God encounters."**

#### GOD WAS ALSO CORRECTING PETER

One of the reasons the transfiguration took place was to set the disciples' priorities straight. They looked at the prophets with as much adoration, or maybe more, than Jesus.

- We do this today. **We often go to supplemental authors before the Word and trust dynamic speakers more than Christ.** Maybe we need to prioritize?

#### "GET UP, DON'T BE AFRAID."

After God's voice told the disciples to listen to Him, "Jesus came up, touched them" and "when they looked up they saw no one except Jesus alone."

- As they were descending down, Jesus told them to not share what they had seen until after His resurrection because people wouldn't understand yet.

#### WHAT DID MALACHI MEAN?

400 years before Jesus was born the prophet Malachi wrote that Elijah must come before the Savior. The 3 disciples didn't recognize that the metaphor was speaking of John the Baptist.

- Because the professing people of God had **inaccurate expectations** of the Savior, they missed prophecy unfolding in front of them.

#### SPEAKING OF INACCURATE EXPECTATIONS

All of us can get our priorities out of whack and lose sight of how God is working. We can also have expectations of Jesus that aren't biblical.

- **The remedy to confusion is biblical literacy, prayer, and asking the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom and discernment. We must be constantly depending on God's guidance.**

## MEANWHILE (MATTHEW 17:14-21)

### WHERE WERE THE OTHER 9 DISCIPLES?

After the transfiguration on the mountain, Jesus and the inner 3 "reached the crowd" and "a man approached" and asked Jesus to heal his son from violent seizures because Jesus' disciples couldn't do it.

- The "seizures" weren't epilepsy, but self-harm due to demonic oppression or possibly possession. **Self-harm comes from evil.**

### LOOK AT THE CONTRAST

As the power of God is on display in the transfiguration on the mountain, down below the lack of faith of the disciples prohibits them from exercising the power available to them from God.

- Jesus harshly rebukes the 9 by calling them "unbelieving" and "perverse," connecting them with non-believing Israel.

### A FRUSTRATED JESUS HEALS THE BOY

Jesus simply rebukes the demon and "the boy was healed." The disciples then approached Jesus and asked why they couldn't do the same.

- Jesus' answer shed new light on the issue of the faith of Christians. Jesus pointed out to them that their faith was extraordinarily small.

### WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL WITH THE FAITH TOPIC

Many people twist this passage into something it isn't intended to be. **Though faith is the vessel for God to work, it is still the work of God, not our faith, that does the miraculous.**

- **Faith is trusting that God is in control and knows what is best. We must, in faith, pray God's will to be done.**

### WE MUST ALSO KEEP THE MIRACLE IN CONTEXT

**It is never Jesus' will that any "perish," go to hell** (2 Peter 3:9, John 6:40). So, the miracle of delivering a demonically oppressed boy would always fall in line with God's will.

- **God physically healing in this life is not always the will of the Father (Mt. 26:39), therefore our trust must be put into His will not our level of faith.**

### THE FAITH OF A MUSTARD SEED

**True faith is the admittance that we are powerless.** When Jesus was speaking about the "faith of a mustard seed," He was referring to us letting go and trusting in Him.

- **It is when we acknowledge how weak we are that God does amazing things in our lives. It takes humility and dependency!**

### MOVING MOUNTAINS?

**Through Him we have the ability to move the mountains He wants moved.** The "name it claim it" theology is not biblical and has destroyed the hopes of countless people.

- "Moving mountains" is metaphorical, but **the mature Christian can look back and testify that God truly does move "mountains."**

### TAKING AN INVENTORY

- Are our expectations of God biblical?
- Are we going straight to the source to find the answers? Are we following the Word?
- Are we seeking quick fixes or a long-lasting relationship from Jesus?
- Are we praying? Are we asking to be full of the Spirit? Are we asking for guidance?
- Do we have faith that God is in control?
- Do we pray for God's will to be done in our lives regardless of what that will is?
- Are we humble? Are we obedient? Are we dependent on Christ daily?
- What are the mountains that God wants to move for us?