

TRANSFIGURATION

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Matthew 17:1-13

1. And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,
 - “When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi...” Matthew 16:13 Caesarea Philippi is at the southern base of Mt. Hermon” Mt. Hermon is a possible site of Jesus’ transfiguration.
 - “And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain *to pray*.” Luke 9:28. Luke’s eight days includes the beginning and ending days as well as the interval between of six full days. Ryrie footnote page 1415

2. And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.
 - shine. radiate brilliancy Strongs #2989
 - “And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering.” Luke 9:29
 - “We have here the narrative of Christ’s transfiguration which was designed for a specimen of that glory of his in which he will come to judge the world, of which he had lately been speaking, and, consequently, an encouragement to his disciples to suffer for him, and never be ashamed of him.” Matthew Henry’s Commentary page 1852
 - Earlier, Jesus had asked [Matthew 16:13] “Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?” The disciples responded “Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” [Matthew 16:14] Then he asked the disciples, “But whom say ye that I am?” It was Peter that said, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” A short time later, Peter, James and John, who were a part of the earlier discussion, see Elijah, Moses and Jesus talking. This would affirm to them that Jesus was not Elijah, Moses, Jeremiah, or some other prophet...if there was any doubt.

3. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.
 - Moses and Elias. The transfiguration gave the three disciples a preview of Jesus’ future exaltation and the coming kingdom. The Lord was seen in His body of glory; Moses and Elias illustrated those whom Christ will bring with Him; the disciples represented those who will behold His coming. Ryrie Study Bible footnote Matthew 17:2
 - The disciples had seen many miracles that Jesus did...all supernatural. Would not the scene of Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah been overwhelming? How might they have known that Moses and Elijah were Moses and Elijah? They heard them talking [vs. 3]. Jesus would have no doubt called them by name.

4. Then answered [No one had spoken to Peter so that he answered them. He simply spoke out.] Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.
 - Tabernacles. Tent or cloth hut Strong's #4633; booths or shelters, for temporary residence Ryrie Study Bible footnote for Matthew 17:4
 - Peter apparently thought that they might be staying there awhile
 - Where was Peter coming from when he suggested that they build shelters? It could have been cold where they were. Mt. Hermon was over 9,000 feet tall. We don't know that they were at those elevations, however. Peter was impulsive and "needed" to do or say something. Peter's comment about making three shelters is somewhat of an indication that he did not understand. It seems "Be still and know that I am God" was not part of Peter's vocabulary at the time. How often do I assess a situation and do... or say..., rather than "Be still and know that I am God".
5. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.
 - God had appeared to men in different forms. A bright cloud overshadowed Jesus, Moses and Elijah while God was talking.
 - Peter put Jesus on an equal footing with Moses and Elias. God did not approve
6. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.
 - They went from interrupting Jesus and suggesting that they all "hang out together" to ...reverence. They would never have forgotten that day. They would have remembered that day and talked about it together. "We saw the face of Jesus as bright as the sun and his clothes were as brilliant as the light from His face. And then we heard God speak out of a bright cloud."
 - Often, in my heart, my attitude is one of "hanging out with Jesus" rather than reverence. When we read God's Word...the Word from God...is his Word revered in our hearts?
7. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, **Arise, and be not afraid.**
 - Jesus touched them physically and comforted them. He does that today, oftentimes through His Word, family or another Christian friend or brother. His touch removes fear.
8. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.
9. And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, **Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.**
 - They no doubt would have been encouraged as they reflected on their experience and understood the breadth and depth of their experience.

10. And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?
11. And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.**
12. **But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.**
13. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.

Mark 9:9-10

9. And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead.
10. And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean.
 - They had heard Jesus, Moses and Elijah talking about Jesus death and resurrection.

Mark 9:14-29

14. And when he came to his disciples, he saw a great multitude about them, and the scribes questioning with them.
15. And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to him saluted him.
 - salute - greet
16. And he asked the scribes, **What question ye with them?**
 - “What are you arguing about?” Footnote from Ryrie Study Bible
17. And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit;
 - A demon caused the boy’s dumbness and deafness [Ryrie]
 - Other effects were similar to epilepsy [Ryrie]
18. And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not.
19. He answered him, and saith, **O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you? Bring him unto me.**

20. And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming.
21. And he asked his father, **How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.**
- Jesus knew about this child. He is all knowing. He asked questions for the benefit of those around him.
22. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us.
23. Jesus said unto him, **If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.**
24. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.
- The man cried for help for his own weak faith.
 - Jesus did not commend him for his faith as he had done with some others
25. When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, **Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.**
26. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead.
27. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.
28. And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?
- “And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.**” Matthew 17:20
 - “...nothing shall be impossible...” The will of God, of course, governs all things, including this promise. Ryrie Study Bible note on Matthew 17:20
29. And he said unto them, **This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.**
- The father did not have faith. The disciples did not have faith. But Jesus healed the young man...for His purposes...it was His will.
 - The comment by Jesus causes us to conclude that the disciples had not prayed.

Luke 9: 30-32

30. And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias;

31. Who appeared in glory and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

- decease - death

32. But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

Questions.

How often do I assess a situation and do... or say..., rather than “Be still and know that I am God”.

When we read God’s Word...the Word from God...is his Word revered in our hearts?

How does Jesus comfort us today?

What does reverencing and lifting up the name of Jesus mean?