

The Transfiguration

Matthew 17:1-13

August 22, 2021

The People: Jesus (God), Peter, James and John later to be joined by Moses and Elijah.

The Time: Six days after Jesus had told the disciples He would suffer and for them to take up their cross (Matthew 16).

Why the account of The Transfiguration?

God's Glory.

God will not share His glory.

Cannot serve both God and Matthew 6:24

And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua 24:15

Because it is about God's glory, God was giving His stamp of approval on Jesus in front of three of His key followers, "*this is my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!*" (v. 5)

It's always about God's glory and worship.

Our lives
Our homes
Our family
Our worship
Our Church
Our activities

Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. **Isaiah 26:8 (NIV)**

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. **1 Corinthians 10:31**

I am the LORD, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images. **Isaiah 42:8**

The meeting of Jesus (God) and those on the mountain was ultimately for God's glory.

God's Patience.

From verse 4 Peter thought this was it (the end) and suggests making three tents like in the wilderness where God's worship was carried on and also during the Feast of Tabernacles. It's well believed that many thought Peter specifically was ready to stay there, with the others, along with Elijah and Moses and worship the Lord.

Peter would find out the Lord was getting him and the other disciples ready for Jesus' death.

Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead.¹⁰ So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant.

Mark 9:9-10

Men who had spent three years with Jesus, who had told them similar things over and over and in different ways, they were either still confused or refused to believe that Jesus would have to suffer and die. Jesus was patient with them as He is with us. Praise the Lord!

Jesus' crucifixion and His disciples.

Time and time again Jesus has been patient and loving, not giving up.

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

God's Encouragement (keep going).

Remember from last week, even Peter was "rebuking" the Lord when Peter told Him that this wasn't going to happen. He told Peter to get behind me Satan and in our account today He is seeking to encourage Peter.

Jesus was seeking to encourage three of His closest followers as to who He was and what was to come. I can only imagine how often these three looked back at this event during all that would take place leading up to the crucifixion.

"Jesus was anchoring them in confidence of the glory to follow the suffering".

~ Allistar Bagg

Jesus was seeking to encourage His followers because He knew what was to come. The three could look back at this and be reminded to keep going.

Folks, in this world we will have trouble, Scripture tells us, which is why NOW is the time to be grounded in the Truth of Jesus and the Gospel!

We have seen God work in our life and the evidence of His great power. Unlike Peter, James and John, we have been commissioned to tell others what God has done in us, thru us and for us.

Prayer Focus:

- **Do it ALL for God's glory.**
- **Thank God for His patience with you.**
- **Thank God for His encouragement to you.**