

The Transfiguration

[Mar 9:2-13 ESV] – 2 And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, 3 and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. 4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. 5 And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." 6 For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. 7 And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." 8 And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. 9 And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. 10 So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean. 11 And they asked him, "Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?" 12 And he said to them, "Elijah does come first to restore all things. And how is it written of the Son of Man that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt? 13 But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him."

I. Intro

- A. This is a beautiful and famous passage
 - 1. Matthew, Mark, and Luke include the transfiguration in their gospel accounts
 - 2. Peter also mentions it in 2 Peter 1
- B. The preparation of the disciples comes to a mountain peak experience
- C. The Son of God theme:
 - 1. The Introduction: [Mar 1:1 ESV] – 1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
 - 2. The Pinnacle: [Mar 9:7 ESV] – 7 And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him."
 - 3. The Observation/Conclusion: [Mar 15:39 ESV] – 39 And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"
- D. Messianic Secret:
 - 1. Verse 9
 - 2. But with an instruction of when to tell, After rising from the dead.
 - 3. This they still did not grasp...yet.

II. Text

- A. Verse 2: A small group, but GLORY was present
- B. Verse 3: The same visible glory that is seen in many places in scripture
- C. Verse 4: Elijah and Moses join the group, two very important figures
- D. Verses 5-6: Peter does his thing..unable to simply observe...he interjects
 - 1. Lets build some tents
 - 2. Not necessary, Peter
- E. Verse 7: God interjects himself, and reminds us of a truth we need to hear today: THIS IS MY SON, LISTEN TO HIM.
- F. Verses 8-10: They needed to debrief along the way
- G. Verses 11-13: specific questions are now coming to their minds as things start connecting for them.

III. Points

- A. The Humanity and Deity of Christ
 - 1. [Phl 2:5-11 ESV] – 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore

God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2. Jesus and His glory have never been separated, but He did not outwardly display that glory as He did ministry among His people.
3. It doesn't make His glory less, but does show us how much He loved us!
 - a) He left the glory of heaven
 - b) Became a nobody from a nowhere town
 - c) Taught the foundational truths of the faith
 - d) Became our sacrifice, as was His plan all along.
 - e) Was raised from the dead, physically and literally
 - f) And ascended back to heaven with the promise to come again.
4. Peter, James, and John are seeing Him as He really is, and they still have questions.
5. Important Theological truth:
 - a) Jesus is 100% God, and 100% man
 - b) He lived and breathed, learned and grew as a man
 - c) He IS
 - (1) The messiah
 - (2) The word
 - (3) The way
 - (4) The truth
 - (5) The life
 - (6) My redeemer
 - (7) My comforter
 - (8) My counselor
 - (9) My very present help in times of need
 - (10) HE is the alpha and omega
 - (11) HE is king of kings and Lord of Lords!
 - d) Song "You are Holy (Prince of PEace)"

B. The People Present

1. Moses
 - a) Chosen by God to lead His people out of slavery in Egypt
 - b) Many signs and wonders
 - c) And many Christ Connections in the story
 - d) But, Moses experienced the visible glory of God on several occasions:
 - (1) The burning bush
 - (2) The Cleft of the Rock, at the second set of 10 Commandments tablets
2. Elijah
 - a) Chosen by God as prophet during a dark time in the land of Israel
 - b) He experienced many signs and wonders in his ministry
 - c) He called fire from heaven to prove Baal to be false, and God to be true.
 - d) Never died, taken up to heaven by God in a whirlwind and chariot of fire
 - e) [2Ki 2:11 ESV] – 11 And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.
3. Jesus: We know His story
4. Peter, James, and John:
 - a) They were being tasked with being the next generation of those chosen by God
 - b) They are seeing His glory in the transfiguration, and will see it again on the day of pentecost when the Holy Spirit descends on them with fire from heaven.
 - c) This same fire has been given to His followers today, as this message has been passed down from person to person.
5. Commonalities:

- a) All chosen by God
- b) All saw the glory of God first hand
- c) All were available instruments, even in their flawed state, to be used by God for the mission of God.

C. The Lessons Learned

1. Peter, James, and John begin asking questions
2. They were questioning what this "rising from the dead might mean."
 - a) We know this had to be overwhelming
 - b) This is the second time they have heard it directly stated.
3. They were also asking questions about how all this was working together with what has been taught, and things are beginning to become more clear.
4. Peter couldn't keep from talking in the moment, this has happened before, but this one seems a little extra.
 - a) Mark explains it a bit for us, THEY WERE TERRIFIED
 - b) Growth and understanding require development and discipleship.
5. They are experiencing the GLORY of GOD in a way that is going to be our reality one day.
6. [2Pe 1:16-21 ESV] – 16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," 18 we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. 19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
7. Keep learning, keep searching, keep growing:
 - a) We are on a journey, and sometimes we will see the lesson to be learned very clearly.
 - b) Other times we will not fully understand in the moment, but over time we will get to where God wants us to be.
 - c) Keep growing in faith and trust, keep praying for God to instruct and direct.
 - d) Don't stop studying, praying, and serving!

IV. Close

- A. Revelation 1
 1. Alpha and omega
 2. First and last
 3. Was dead, now alive forevermore
- B. Jesus is God who became flesh
- C. Jesus has always been, and will always be
- D. He is KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS!