



The King and His Kingdom *Matthew 17*

Jesus Is Like No One Else

The Transfiguration Account (vv. 1-13)

- * Six days after Peter's confession
- * Three disciples only (Peter, James, John)
- * Went up a high mountain (unidentified)
- * Jesus "resplendent with divine brightness" (form changed, inner reality unchanged)
- * Moses and Elijah were talking with Jesus

Why Moses and Elijah with Jesus?

- * Moses, through whom the Law was given
- * Moses spoke to God on Mt. Sinai:
- * Moses who was buried by God
- * Elijah, who called Israel to repent
- * Elijah spoke to God on Mt. Horeb:
- * Elijah carried to heaven in whirlwind

Malachi 4:1-4 **A day of judgment is coming**
"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel." (4)

Malachi 4:5-6 **Before that day Elijah will call you to repentance**
"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

Purpose of Jesus' conversation with Moses & Elijah:
"They spoke about his departure, (his death) which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem." (Luke 9:31)
Interpreted as the complete work of suffering, death and resurrection. Jesus would accomplish this according to his own will, in order to fulfill all that was prophesied.

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God Speaks

Following Peter's interruption God made his presence known in the bright cloud.

"*This one* is my beloved Son. Listen to *him*!"

Jesus, this Son of mine, is not like Moses or Elijah. They are not equal to him. He is above both of them. He is greater than the Law or any Prophet.

Especially, listen to him because he will explain to you the necessity of the cross...how he must suffer, die and rise again.

Reality sets in for the 12. The wheels are in motion.

- * Elijah has already come.
- * John was killed.
- * Jesus will be killed.
- * We are to follow with our "crosses."
- * Jesus says "do not be afraid."

Jesus and his disciples owe no Temple Tax (vv. 24-27)

The sons of the king owe no temple tax. The suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus mean no further atonement is needed. No more sacrifices. Jesus paid the tax as "one of us" because he bore our sins.

Walking in Matthew's Sandals

Further study and discussion: (vv. 14-20)

What was the reason the disciples could not cast the demon out of the boy? What has happened to the faith of these 9 disciples (excluding Peter, James and John)?

Have you ever found your faith headed in the wrong direction, getting "littler" rather than growing stronger? How did this impact your life? How was it overcome?

Read Hebrews 12:2. Because Jesus is our one and only hope, what leads us to stronger faith?

Also read John 8:31-36.