

Transfiguration

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Friend of Jesus / Transfiguration / Matthew 17:1–8; Mark 9:2–8; Luke 9:28–36

One of the most dramatic and supernatural moments is the transfiguration. Why did Moses and Elijah come talk with Jesus? Let's discover this question together.

- Transfiguration

Context

- Jesus had conversation...
 - about his death.
- Previous chapter:

[Matthew 16:21–23](#) (ESV)

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

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And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from

you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.”

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But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

- Same in Mark
 - Previous Chapter...
- Now we know
 - what was on their mind
 - as they climbed in darkness...
 - discouragement...

Timeline

- Jesus say,
 - I’m going to die,
- Peter argues...
 - Jesus rebukes.

- Jesus talks about
 - talking up cross
 - following Jesus.
- 6 days later,
 - takes them up mountain.

Struggle of Faith

- They could not accept.
 - this is path of Messiah.

Matthew 17:1 ESV

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

Peter, James, and John

- There were lots of different groups
 - All followers

- The 70
- The 12
- The 3

- Why 3?
 - Mentor 70
 - Mentor 12
 - Mentor 3
 - Why
 - Deeper connection

The Climb

- Jesus
 - worked all day

- Disciples were tired.

- Jesus tired.

- Struggle with faith.
- Why climb?
- Luke answers:

Luke 9:28 ESV

Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

- Apparently,
 - not uncommon.
- Familiar with
 - long walks
 - lonely walks
 - desolate walks
 - night walks
 - for prayer.

Backpacking

long days

quiet at end...

want to be done.

- What disciples thinking?
 - Why are we here?
 - Where are we going?

- Metaphorically...
 - Is Jesus really the Messiah?
 - Why are we in the wilderness?
 - We should be in Jerusalem...
 - Proclaiming Him king!
 - This seems wrong...

- Yet,
 - they walked
 - lonely

- dark
 - physically
 - emotionally.

- Finally stop.
 - Jesus prays.
 - Disciple try to join

Desire of Ages Chapter 46—He Was Transfigured

At first the disciples unite their prayers with His in sincere devotion; but after a time they are overcome with weariness, and, even while trying to retain their interest in the scene, they fall asleep.

- Want to stay awake
 - want to pray
 - but can't keep eyes open.

- Jesus prays
 - for hours
 - and hours.

Desire of Ages Chapter 46—He Was Transfigured

Stepping a little aside from them, the Man of Sorrows pours out His supplications with strong crying and tears. He prays for strength to endure the test in behalf of humanity. He must Himself gain a fresh hold on Omnipotence, for only thus can He contemplate the future. And He pours out His heart longings for His disciples, that in the hour of the power of darkness their faith may not fail. The dew is heavy upon His bowed form, but He heeds it not. The shadows of night gather thickly about Him, but He regards not their gloom. So the hours pass slowly by.

- The scene is dark
 - physically
 - emotionally.

Crying out to God

Have you experienced this?

- Jesus is anxious
 - for himself
 - for his disciples.
- He knows

- power in prayer
- strength in prayer

- He needs companionship
- brought the disciples.

- These 3
- are in Gethsemane
 - same experience
 - they fall asleep.

- Just too weary to pray.

- Jesus pours His heart out
 - to God
 - God alone

- He is worried about them.

- Worried about their:
 - fears
 - faith
 - discouragement
- He prays for them.
 - Build their faith.
 - Help them see You.
 - Manifestation of Your power.
- His prayer is is answered:

Matthew 17:2 ESV

And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

The Transfiguration

- That was an alarm clock.
 - They woke up.
 - see Jesus shining.

- No longer darkness
 - physically
 - emotionally

- They can see,
 - future
 - glory
 - purpose
 - faith
 - trust

- It was just Jesus
 - standing there...

Matthew 17:3 ESV

And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

Moses and Elijah

- Why Moses and Elijah?
 - How did they recognize them?
 - Elijah camel hair and leather belt.
 - Moses??? Staff?

- Why them?
 - Because few others that could come.
 - Others are in the grave.

Ecclesiastes 9:5–6 ESV

For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and forever they have no more share in all that is done under the sun.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 ESV

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

- Dead rest until resurrection

- What about these two?
- Elijah was
 - taken to heaven alive

2 Kings 2:11 ESV

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.

- Moses Died on Mount Pisgah
 - but resurrect by Jesus
 - taken to heaven

Jude 9 ESV

But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.”

- Michael = Jesus
 - > [Daniel Study](#)

- Devil
 - fought over Moses body.
- Jesus going to resurrect him
 - take him to heaven.
 - Devil Calls foul
- Jesus says,
 - I'm not debating
 - He is mine.
 - Takes him to heaven.

Why Moses and Elijah?

- Two guys
 - already in heaven.
 - alive and available.

- They came for
 - **two reasons.**
- 1. Encourage Disciples
- 2. Encourage Jesus
- Luke is more specific
 - about conversation.

Luke 9:30–31 ESV

And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

- What talking about?
 - Departure...
 - Sacrifice...
 - Death...
- Jesus tried

- they wouldn't listen
 - Moses and Elijah try...
- Don't fully
 - understand
 - accept death
- But
 - trust Jesus
 - believe miracle.
- Missed Some Ideas.

Matthew 17:4 ESV

And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah."

- Rash Peter
- Bold Peter
 - Always gotta speak...

- Frankly,
 - doesn't make sense.
 - (just waking up).

Mark 9:6 ESV

For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

> **Silence is Golden**

Then God Speaks...

The Voice

Matthew 17:5 ESV

He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

- God, the Father, Speaks.
 - Booming Voice
 - Like thunder...

Matthew 17:6 ESV

When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified.

- People react
 - like usual...
- Fear
- Holy God
 - fall on face.
- No more foolish talk.

And It's Gone

Matthew 17:7-8 ESV

But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

- Like a storm
- Like the lightning
- Here then gone...

Why the Transfiguration

- So we ask why?

- Jesus knows
 - His people.
 - his followers.

- He sees and feels
 - discouragements
 - fears

- He cares...

- The Problems
 - don't immediately
 - disappear.

- Jesus provides
 - enough faith
 - help us through.

Appeal

- > You may be
 - > going through
 - > hard times.
- > Don't forget,
 - > He knows.
 - > He cares.
 - > He provides.
- > Perhaps today,
 - > losing hope.
 - > circumstances dark
 - > future shadowy

- > Hold On!
- > He will
- > see you through.