

“The Transfiguration of Christ” Matthew 17:1-8

Introduction- I want to look with you at what has rightly been called *one of the most astonishing of all our Lord’s experiences on earth. The Transfiguration.*

John who was on the mount said, “*we beheld His glory.*” Why was Christ transfigured on the mountain? To show us *the glory of His person!* But, to also teach us that *His suffering at Calvary would lead to glory!*

Peter who was also on the mountain spoke of the suffering of Christ and the glory that should follow. Also for us, the transfiguration encourages us that God can and will transform our suffering into glory.

Now there are three dramatic occurrences in this account that bring us great encouragement:

1. The Vision, vv. 1-2.

- a. The men (vs. 1). Peter, James and John (new testament saints)
- b. The mountain.
- c. The master (vs. 2). He was transfigured. Literally metamorphosed, same as Rom. 12. What was it? He pulled back the veil of His humanity to reveal His pre-incarnate glory. (John 17 & John 1:14). Also future glory, a preview of His second coming.

Think of what the disciples saw. The glory of His divine nature and the glory of His coming kingdom!

How was this meant to encourage them?

It was a demonstration and a confirmation of Christ’s further glory which they would share in. Also for us, we will share in His glory!

2. The Visitors, vv. 3-4.

Moses and Elijah, why?

1. They represented the law and the prophets.
2. Both of these men had met before with God on mountain tops.
3. Proof of life after death (not reincarnation).
4. We will be reunited with family and friends and will know them.
5. Two ways believers go to Heaven. Death (Moses) and Rapture (Elijah).

3. The Voice, vv. 5-8.

1. “A bright cloud.” What was it? The Shekinah glory. A manifestation of God’s glorious presence.

2. “A voice.” It’s the Father. Also at his baptism and before the cross.

3. “Hear Him” (vs. 5).

- The law and the prophets were only partial expressions of God’s Word, but Jesus is God’s last word.
- Hebrews 1. God is speaking. Listen to Jesus.
- Are you thirsty? Jesus said come unto me and drink!
- Are you hungry? “I am the bread of life.”
- Are you lost? “I am the way...”
- Are you living in darkness? “I am the light of
- Are you without hope? “I am the resurrection and the life...”