

## LESSON 12

## THE TRANSFIGURATION

JULY 8, 2020

## The Transfiguration

Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36

## THE TRANSFIGURATION

MATTHEW 17:1-13; MARK 9:2-13; LUKE 9:28-36

*“Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And **He was transfigured before them**; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.”* (Matthew 17:1-3)

**“Transfigured”** – from the Greek *metamorphoo* from where we get the word “metamorphosis.”

- We should call to mind the change we are to experience (Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:18) and the change we yet hope to experience (1 Corinthians 15:50-53)

## THE TRANSFIGURATION

MATTHEW 17:1-13; MARK 9:2-13; LUKE 9:28-36

The 2<sup>nd</sup> event in which only Peter, James, and John were allowed to take part:

1. **The healing of Jairus' daughter.** (Mark 5:37)
2. **The transfiguration** (“to pray,” Luke 9:28)
3. **Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane.** (“to pray,” Mark 14:33-35)

Why these three? (2 Peter 1:16-18)

Which mountain?



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**“Transfigured”** –

1. *“His face shone like the sun.”* (Matthew 17:2)
2. *“His garments became as white as light.”* (Note Mark's description in Mark 9:3)

Luke does not use the word *“transfigured”* but simply states *“the appearance of His face **became different**, and His clothing ... white ... gleaming.”*

We see Jesus described in heavenly glory! (John 17:5; cf. 1 Timothy 6:16)

Noted by other spiritual beings observed by man. (Luke 24:4; Revelation 1:16)

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*“And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.”* (Luke 9:30-31)

- **Moses** – representative of the Law.
- **Elijah** – representative of the prophets.

Jesus is superior to both! (Luke 16:16; John 1:45)

### THE TRANSFIGURATION

□ MATTHEW 17:1-13; MARK 9:2-13; LUKE 9:28-36

What were they talking about? Jesus' *"departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem."* (Luke 9:31)

- *"Departure"* from the Greek "exodus" (2 Peter 1:15; Matthew 16:21; Luke 24:27, *"Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures."*)
- *"Accomplish"* – "to make replete... satisfy, execute ..." (Strong) "To complete ..." (Thayer) (John 17:4; 19:30)
- *"But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled."* (Acts 3:18; cf. 17:3)
- Complete the prophecies concerning His crucifixion. (Psalms 22; Isaiah 53; cf. Luke 24:44).

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This happened *"while"* Jesus was praying. (Luke 9:29; cf. Mark 14:32)

*"Peter and his companions"* had been *"overcome with sleep"* (Luke 9:32; cf. Mark 14:37)

Peter, James, and John awoke to the scene of Jesus in *"His glory and the two men standing with them."* (Luke 9:32)

For what purpose? A response to Jesus' prayer?

- **Encouragement and strength?** (Luke 22:41-43)  
Remember what Jesus had just revealed to His apostles! (Matthew 16:21)
- **Honor and glory to Jesus.** (2 Peter 1:16-18)

2 Peter 1:16-18

*"For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, 'This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased' – and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain."*

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Peter's response:

*"As these men were leaving Him ..." (Luke 9:33)*

*"... Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tabernacles: one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah" (Luke 9:33)*

- Note that Matthew records the address to Jesus as *"Lord"* and in Mark as *"Rabbi."*

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Peter's response:

- *"It is good for us to be here ..." "Pleasant, desirable, advantageous" (Arndt and Gingrich). We don't want such times to end!*
- *"... If you wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."*
  - Is Peter learning to *"follow"* Jesus as he asks, *"if You wish"?*
- Three tabernacles: a sacred place for each to dwell. Peter is treating the three as equals.

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Why did Peter say this?

*"For he did not know what to answer; for they became terrified."* (Mark 9:6)

*"... not knowing what he said."* (Luke 9:33; cf. James 1:19)

- It's not always necessary to say or do something!  
A lot of error has been introduced under the umbrella of "we've got to do something" or "anything is better than nothing."
- Do Peter's intentions matter?

Peter putting Jesus on the same level as Moses and Elijah.

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God's response came "**while he was still speaking** ..." (Matthew 17:5) or "**while he was saying this** ..." (Luke 9:34).

"A **bright cloud** overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said ..." (Exodus 16:10; 33:9-10; Numbers 9:15ff)

Luke records (9:34) that "**they were afraid as they entered the cloud**" as it had "**overshadow(ed)**" them.

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**"This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"**

■ Psalms 2:7; Matthew 3:17; Hebrews 1:1-8; 3:6

■ "**Listen**" – "to get by hearing, **learn** (from the mouth of the teacher.)" (Thayer)  
(Deuteronomy 18:15-19)

■ Again, remember the context, stop getting out in front of Jesus and get behind and follow Him.