



Lesson 17

Jesus Transfiguration

Matthew 17:1-9; Mark 9:2-10; Luke 9:28-36



Matthew 17:1-9

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

² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

³ And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

⁴ 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."

⁵ 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."

⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified.

⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." ⁸ And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

⁹ And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision (lit. *what you have seen*), until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

Mark 9:2-10

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.*

Matthew/Mark Compiled

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

And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became *radiant* [and] white as light—*intensely* white, *as no one on earth could bleach them*.

And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, *and they were talking with Jesus*.

And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, *Rabbi*, 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.” *For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified*.

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.”

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

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. *And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only*.

And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Tell no one the vision (lit. *what you have seen*), until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.”

So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean.

Luke 9:28-36

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

²⁹ *And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered*, and his clothing became *dazzling* white.

³⁰ And behold, *two men were talking with him*, Moses and Elijah, ³¹ *who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem*.

³² *Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him*.

³³ *And as the men were parting from him*, Peter said to Jesus, “*Master*, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said.

³⁴ As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, *and they were afraid as they entered the cloud*.

³⁵ And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, *my Chosen One*; listen to him!”

³⁶ *And when the voice had spoken*, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent *and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen*.

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

After six days...what came before?

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

²¹ 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. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³ 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."

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸ Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." (Matthew 16:21-28)

And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered—he was transfigured before them, his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became radiant [and] dazzling white as light—intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.

- Cf. Jesus' normal appearance
- Isaiah 53; Philippians 2

And behold, there appeared two men—Moses and Elijah-- who appeared in glory, and they were talking with Jesus [about] his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

- Moses the lawgiver; died, but buried by God
- Elijah the fiery prophet of judgment; John the Baptist in the spirit of Elijah; did not die

Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.

And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, Rabbi, Master 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.” For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son-- my Chosen One, with whom I am well pleased; **listen to him.**”

- Cf. Jesus’ baptism, same voice, same message
- Baptism and transfiguration = bookends of Jesus’ ministry

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

And when the voice had spoken, Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” And when they lifted up their eyes, they suddenly no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Tell no one the vision (what you have seen), until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.”

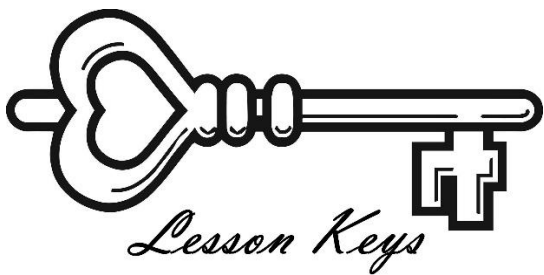
So they kept the matter to themselves, and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean.

- Wouldn’t understand it now
- Very useful/meaningful in the future
- Encouragement to Jesus; to disciples; to us

2 Peter 1:16-21

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 (Psalm 119:105), 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.**



1. Jesus' transfiguration "pulls back the covers" a little bit so that we can see Him for who He is, even in His state of humiliation.
2. The transfiguration conversation & Father's message were encouragement to Jesus.
3. The transfiguration scene was encouragement to the disciples.
4. The transfiguration recorded in God's sure prophetic Word is an encouragement to us and an illustration of the eye-witness character of God's Word.