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STUDY

- a. Jesus took His disciples to Caesarea Philippi
 - 14 hour journey out of the way (25-30 miles)
 - Place at the foot of Mt. Hermon
 - Administrative Capital of the Region
 - Believed to be the Gates of Hell
 - Northern point of the region of Bashan
 - The gods of Pan, Asherah, Molech
 - These gods represented forests, deserted places, shepherds & flocks, pleasure, power, control, child sacrifice.
- b. Jesus invites the disciples to get a personal revelation of him, not from man, but from God directly.
- c. Simon is renamed to Peter
 - Simon = hearing
 - Peter = piece of a rock
 - Church = “a calling out” or “religious gathering”
- d. Jesus reveals, in addition to the fact that He is The Messiah, He must also go to Jerusalem and suffer death.
 - Peter responds by rebuking Jesus

- Jesus responds by telling Peter to get his mind on things above and not the things of man

CHALLENGE

- what is your revelation of Jesus?
- are you walking in the authority of the kingdom?
- what are you willing to do?

- › Pray
- › Turn to your neighbor: **There is More**

1. JESUS IS MORE

Matthew 16:21–28 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. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” 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.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 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? 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. 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.”

DENY TO GAIN

[Matt 16:24](#) “Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

This is not the first time Jesus has made this point: [Matthew 10:34-39](#), He shares about how families will be put against each other because of the cost of following.

When you choose to follow Jesus fully, there is a cost:

- friendships
- family relationships
- work relationships
- time commitments change
- finances change

Quick glance at what's important to you: look at your **finances** and **time**.

Jesus spoke of finances more than any other topic!

THE EVIDENCE OF CROSS BEARING

Matthew 6. The Attitude Jesus' Disciples Must Be Equipped with (32-39)

ii. Each individual Christian life should supply enough evidence—evidence that can be seen by the world—that they are indeed Christians. It is to be feared that many modern Christians, if arrested for the crime of following Jesus and tried in a court, would have the charges dismissed for a lack of evidence.

“What Christ is to you on earth, that you will be to Christ in heaven. I shall repeat that truth. Whatever Jesus Christ is to you on earth, you will be to him in the day of judgment. If he be dear and precious to you, you will be precious and dear to him. If you thought everything of him, he will think everything of you.” (Spurgeon)

Matthew 10:38 ESV

And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

2 Timothy 2:11-13 ESV

The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

The question is not, is Jesus consistent...it's am I consistent?

WORKS MATTER

Matthew 16:27 ESV

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.

We are not saved by works, but the works that we do while saved matter.

› **do you think this effected James?**

James 1:22 ESV

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 2 talks about the sin of partiality and states that faith without works is **dead**.

Matthew 10:33-34 ESV

but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

Telling someone you love them will only go so far...eventually there will need to be action that proves that love.

1 John 3:18 ESV

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

CLOSING THOUGHTS AT THE GATES OF HELL

Matthew 16:28 ESV

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.”

Scholars differ over what is meant exactly here, and these are some options:

- The Transfiguration
- The Resurrection
- The Ascension
- Day of Pentecost: Holy Spirit Outpouring
- The Spread of the Church (Signs, Wonders, Supernatural Growth)

Here's what I know...the ability to experience Heaven on Earth is possible.

› Transition to the Transfiguration

2. TRANSFORMED TO MORE

We are going to walk through the next 13 verses, which also parallel in [Mark 9:2-8](#) & [Luke 9:28-36](#).

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.

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.

Right away, critics would come in to say this event didn't happen and that the facts don't line up.

Let's talk about it.

Facts

- It happened latter than the previous event (somewhere between 6-8 days)
- Jesus took: Peter, James, John up on a **mountain**

PETER, JAMES, JOHN

- These three were the pillars of the church
- Peter went on to preach the day of Pentecost and see great and mighty harvests. He was also the first one to take the gospel to the gentiles, after Jesus.
- James became the pastor of the church in Jerusalem, probably one of the most persecuted churches.
- John went on to write the most intimate gospel of Jesus Christ and got the revelation of Jesus Christ and end time events.

THE MOUNTAIN

- Could be **Mt. Hermon** or **Mt. Tabor**

MAP OF THE REGION

- Mt. Hermon
 - we know that they were already at Caesarea Philippi which is at the base of Mt. Hermon.
 - Mt. Hermon was a strategic military and religious location
- Mt. Tabor
 - we know that Jesus was just saying they needed to go to Jerusalem
 - This event happens about a week later, so they would potentially have been on their way to Jerusalem

Among Jews, a day's journey ranged from twenty to thirty miles. A large company would only go about ten miles. A Sabbath day's journey was less than two miles. Whenever travellers would meet on the road they would greet each other in a very lengthy manner, often delaying their trip.

Travel on foot was for the common and poor person. Walkers had to wear heavy shoes or sandals, and to carry tents, bedding and provisions.
- Mt. Tabor, like Mt. Hermon, was also a strategic military and religious location.

Here's What I Know

- the mountain that Jesus is transfigured was a **significant** and **strategic military** and **religious** mountain.

Our God is a God of intentionality!

Mt. TABOR

IMAGE OF MT. TABOR

I believe that the mountain of Transfiguration was Mt. Tabor, but not necessarily because of the research and speculation that has been done.

**** THERE'S MORE ****

NUGGET

Mount Tabor is mentioned 11 times in the OT.

One of those times is when Deborah and Barak take of an army of 10,000 and defeat Sisera.

The story is interesting, but the common theme of the story is **obedience**.

As I was studying this week, I stumbled upon some notes from a previous study and was reminded of the following:

Harper's Bible Dictionary Obedience

The OT has no separate word meaning 'obey.' 'Obey' translates the Hebrew 'to hear' (Gen. 22:18; Isa. 42:24).

- › **Where else have we seen a word/name meaning "to hear?"**

Simon = to hear

I find it significant that in last week's study and this week, the theme of obedience and hearing are threaded deeply. This is not an accident. This is significant.

PRAYER & REVELATION

Matthew 17:2-4 ESV

And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 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."

Luke's account gives us a little different perspective, indicating that Jesus took the three up the mountain to pray. This would've been a common thing.

Luke also points out that the three had apparently fallen asleep, and a deep sleep at that.

Transfigured

A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament and The Hebrew Bible 3339. μεταμορφόω

3339. μεταμορφόω mētamorphōō, met-am-or-fō'-ō; from 3326 and 3445; to transform (lit. or fig. "metamorphose")—change, transfigure, transform.

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.

MOSES & ELIJAH

DEATH

"spoke of his departure" *caught my attention*

Moses died but we don't know where he was buried.

Elijah was taken to Heaven by chariots of fire.

Jesus died and was buried, rose to life, and was taken to Heaven - He did both!

MAP OF THE REGION - HIGHLIGHTED

**** THERE'S MORE ****

GLORY

Moses & Elijah both had encounters with God on Mt. Horeb (Mt. Sinai) and they saw the glory of the Lord.

Moses' face was glowing for days after he **saw** the glory of the Lord.

Elijah was told to cover his face.

Jesus face glowed "like the sun", **he is the glory!**

**** THERE'S MORE ****

PRIEST & PROPHET

Moses received the Law which also established the priesthood.

Elijah represented the Prophets of Israel

Jesus is both *and more*, Jesus is **Priest, Prophet, & King!**

We like Jesus the Priest, atoning for our sins.

We struggle sometimes with Jesus the Prophet, as He brings correction into our lives.

He is both. We need both.

HEARING GOD

Peter is awestruck by this moment, but slips right into man's way of thinking again.

- › **Do we see a pattern? Do we see how easy it is to slip into man's mind?**

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.”

Peter is not talking about building a campsite, he is referencing building tabernacles for each of them.

Without fully understanding what he is saying, he is equating Jesus with Moses and Elijah.

Before we jump on Peter's case about blurting things out and being...Peter, take note: Peter is the ONLY one that wrote about this experience!

At the time of the Transfiguration, Peter is probably 20-24 years old.

This is Peter 30 years later.

2 Peter 1:16-21 ESV

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. 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,” we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. 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, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 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.

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.”

This is the second time that we have heard God’s audible voice during Jesus ministry.

First Time: after Jesus was baptized and beginning His Earthly ministry, God said, [Matthew 3:17](#) “and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.””

Second Time: Jesus is about to end His Earthly ministry, and God says, [Matthew 17:5](#) “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.””

First time my son, I’m pleased.

Second time my son, I’m pleased, listen to Him.

Matthew 17:6–8 ESV

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.

There was no intimidation coming from God, yet the magnitude of His glory creates a natural response of fear in man.

In the midst of revelation, it all points back to Jesus.

There may be other elements involved, other things that are seen, but ultimately, it all points back to Jesus!

This is an easy checkup if the revelation you are receiving is from God or from Man.

There’s nothing wrong with having a revelation from man, just don’t label it as something from God.

Matthew 17:9 ESV

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

This was a hidden promise.

They would be able to share about this incredible experience **when** the Son of Man **is** raised from the dead.

MOUNTAINS OF MANTLE TRANSFER

When you have a mountain top experience with the Lord, it is a transition point.

You cannot stay the same when you come down from the mountains.

This is why you can't fight new valleys with old tactics!