

The Transfiguration of Jesus

Introduction: We have been looking at various events in the life of Jesus. Today we will turn our attention to the Transfiguration of Jesus. This event is a major point in the life of Jesus and teaches us some important lessons. Let us consider this great event and consider its meaning and significance for us.

I. The Transfiguration:

- A. This event comes on the heels of the events of the 16 chapter:
 1. Peter confesses Jesus as the Christ and then Jesus declares that He will build His church: Matthew 16:16-20
 2. Jesus then teaches the disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and be killed: 21-23
 3. Jesus teaches the commitment required to be a disciple: 24
 4. This section concludes with Jesus' declaration that the kingdom would soon come: 28
- B. Jesus goes up on a high mountain, bringing Peter, James, and John with Him: Luke 9:28-29
- C. Jesus is transfigured:
 1. While Jesus was praying (Luke's account), He was transfigured. The word here is what we get our word metamorphosis from. It is the idea of changing into another form.
 2. The purpose of this transfiguration is to display the glory of Jesus: John 1:14, Hebrews 1:3
 3. While in this form, Moses and Elijah appeared:
 - a. Moses is a personification of the law: Matthew 23:2
 - b. Elijah is a personification of the prophets: 2 Kings 2:13, 15
 - c. Jesus is the fulfillment of them both: Matthew 5:17
 - d. We also see an interesting connection in:
 1. You will not find their graves: Acts 2:31, Deuteronomy 34:5-6, 2 Kings 2:11
 2. They each had a mountain encounter: Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19, 33-34), Mt. Horeb (1 Kings 19)
 3. All were associated with God's glory: Exodus 34:29-30, 1 Kings 19:11-13
 4. They had a prophetic message of returning: Deuteronomy 18:15, Malachi 4:5-6, Acts 1:11
 - e. Moses and Elijah speak to Jesus about the death that Jesus would soon suffer: Luke 9:31
 4. The disciples wake up: Luke 9:32
 - a. Peter sees what is happening and states a desire to build three tabernacles, one for each. Luke tells us that he didn't know what He was saying (33), while Mark tells us he didn't know what to answer for they were terrified (9:6).
 - b. There are several suggestions as to Peter's intentions. It may be a desire for Moses and Elijah to stay longer (which of us wouldn't want that?), most likely Peter is seeking other honor them, making Moses and Elijah equal with Jesus.
 - c. The issue with this is that Jesus is not equal with Moses or Elijah but is a fulfillment of their work.
 5. While Peter is speaking, God speaks: 'This is my beloved son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!': Hebrews 1:1-2, Matthew 13:9
 6. Jesus tells the disciples not to tell anyone about what they saw: Romans 1:4

II. What Does This Mean?

- A. It was to strengthen Jesus for His sufferings:
 1. While He was God, He still took on flesh and was subject to the same struggles we face.
 2. This event was a reminder of God's approval and His love and pleasure in Jesus.
 3. It also served as a reminder of the glory Jesus had and would have once he returned: John 17:5
- B. To emphasize the superiority of Jesus:
 1. The glory of Jesus was on display: 2 Peter 1:16-18
 2. Jesus has been highly exalted: Philippians 2:9
 3. Everything that Jesus would bring would be far superior to the Law and prophets (Priesthood, sacrifice, worship, salvation).
 4. This would confirm Jesus as the Messiah: Luke 9:35, Isaiah 42:1
- C. To help confirm the faith of the disciples: Matthew 16:16
- D. To point toward our own transformation:
 1. While Jesus was transformed, He is seeking to transform us into His glorious image: Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 3:8
 2. Our goal should be to conform ourselves to the image of Christ.

Conclusion: This shows us the importance of the Transfiguration of Jesus. Jesus was shown in all His glory and is confirmed as the Messenger of God that we should listen to. Jesus will return in glory and carry the faithful to glory. Let us honor the Lord and faithfully serve Him so we can dwell with Him in glory.