

Jesus Is Gloriously Transfigured
Matthew 17:1-13 (Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36)

Now it came to pass, after six days (after these sayings) Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves to pray. As He prayed, He was transfigured before them. The appearance of His face was altered and shone like the sun, and His clothes became shining and glistening, exceedingly white, like snow, as white as the light, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, and they were talking with Jesus, who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him.

Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, that Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah - not knowing what he said because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid. While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. And suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. When the voice had ceased, Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." When they had lifted up their eyes and had looked around, they saw no one but Jesus only with themselves.

Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead." So they kept this word to themselves, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen, while questioning what the rising from the dead meant. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished, as it is written of him. Likewise, how is it written concerning the Son of Man, that He must also suffer many things at their hands, and be treated with contempt. Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.

Questions:

1. Why would Jesus take only the three apostles and not all twelve? What else had they done with Jesus?
2. What reason is given for leading them up this high mountain? (Luke 9:28) Why was this important to Jesus at this time (six days after He told them about His coming death)?
3. As Jesus was "transfigured" (transformed in appearance) what changes came over Him during this time?
4. What encouragement was it for Jesus for Moses and Elijah to appear with Him? Can you think why these two great men out of all the Old Testament? What did the three of them have in common?
5. What were they talking about? Why was their talking about this important for the three apostles?
6. What do you make of the apostles almost falling asleep and missing this? Did they miss some of it or were they fighting off the sleep and able to see and hear what was happening?
7. What was wrong with Peter's suggestion about building three tabernacles?
8. What was the purpose of the sudden overshadowing of the bright cloud? What was the importance of the voice they heard and the words spoken?
9. Why did Jesus come over and touch them and reassure them? When they looked up again, what did they see?
10. What command did Jesus give them on the way down the mountain? By calling it "the vision" did Jesus mean what they saw hadn't really happened? What was important about three apostles as witnesses? 2 Peter 1:16-19
11. Who was the "Elijah" who was to come first? Malachi 4:5-6 What comparison did Jesus make that Elijah had come and the way he had been received and what was foretold about the Son of Man?