



Matthew 17:1-13

# DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING: GLIMPSES OF GLORY

*The transfiguration foreshadows Jesus' resurrection and his return. If 16:21-28 stressed the need for Jesus' passion, here Matthew provides a balancing reminder of Jesus' coming glory. Three disciples are privileged to come to an advanced viewing. Even as we must today avoid the heresies of the so-called health-wealth gospel, it is equally important to note that God does give us from time to time foretastes of glory. But we cannot predict when and how he will provide them, we dare not demand them, and for most people they will probably remain the exception rather than the norm... We should be grateful for whatever glimpses of glory God graciously gives. They often provide crucial sustenance for us during hard times, but they will not do away with hard times altogether.* —Craig L. Blomberg

In Matthew 14-16, Jesus teaches His disciples twelve vital truths.

1. We live in an immoral world.
2. We face an impossible task.
3. We have an omnipotent Savior.
4. We can easily be side-tracked by popular movements.
5. We will encounter fear-producing storms in life.
6. We can walk on water if we keep our eyes on Jesus.
7. We must beware of the dangers of religious legalism.
8. We must see the absolute centrality of the heart.
9. We must confront our prejudices in order to love like Jesus.
10. We must beware of the leaven of the Pharisees & Sadducees.
11. We must know who Jesus is.
12. We must follow Jesus wherever He leads.

Following Jesus is not easy. He calls us to surrender our will and sacrifice our lives for Him. Only by trusting our Shepherd can we follow Him even when the path leads through the valley of the shadow of death (Ps. 23:4). God often gives us a glimpse of His glory on the mountain to give us strength and hope as we walk through the valley.

## GLIMPING THE GLORY OF JESUS (17:1-3)

**Who?** Jesus takes Peter, James, and John (cf. Mark 5:37; 14:33).

**When?** A \_\_\_\_\_ later (Mark 9:2; Luke 9:28; cf. Ex. 24:16).

**Where?** The traditional site is Mt. Tabor (1843 ft). Other possibilities are Mount Hermon (9232 ft) or Mount Meron (3963 ft).

**What?** Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ before them. His divine glory, veiled in human flesh, shines out in brilliant splendor.

Appearing with Jesus are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, talking together about Jesus' coming death (Luke 9:30-31).

*The transfiguration was, in miniature, a preview of the kingdom.*

—Charles Ryrie

*The point of the solemn language about not tasting death is that the persons referred to would have the privilege of seeing in the course of their natural life what others would only see at the final judgment.* —C.E.B. Cranfield

*The Greek word translated "kingdom" can also be translated "royal splendor," meaning that the three disciples standing there would see Christ as He really is—the King of heaven—which occurred in the transfiguration.*

—gotquestions.org

**Transfigured.** Grk, *metamorphoo*. "to change into another form."

*Moses was the model for the eschatological Prophet and Elijah for the forerunner. Both had strange ends; both were men of God in times of transition... Both experienced a vision of God's glory, one at Sinai and the other at Horeb. Both suffered rejection of various kinds... Together they may well summarize the Law and the Prophets.* —D. A. Carson

- Why?**
1. To \_\_\_\_\_ the true identity and glory of Jesus.
  2. To \_\_\_\_\_ His resurrection and return.
  3. To \_\_\_\_\_ His discouraged disciples.

### HOW DO THE DISCIPLES RESPOND? (17:4-13)

**Peter's Mouth.** *Let me build three tents for you, Moses, and Elijah!*

**God's Voice.** *This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!*

- Stop and \_\_\_\_\_ at My Son (3:17; Ps. 2:7; Is. 42:1).
- Stop and \_\_\_\_\_ to My Son (Deut. 18:15-19).

**The Disciples' Fear.** *They fell on their faces and were terrified.*

**Jesus' Comfort.** *He touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid."*

**The Disciples' Confusion.** *Why do the scribes say Elijah must come first?*

1. Elijah prepares the way for the Messiah (Malachi 3:1; 4:6).
2. Messiah comes and establishes His kingdom on earth (Is. 9:6-7).

**Jesus' Clarification.** *I say to you Elijah is coming...and has come...*

1. God's messenger prepares the way for the Messiah (Malachi 3:1).
2. Messiah comes as Israel's King but is rejected (Is. 53; cf. Mk. 9:12).
3. Messiah's death opens the doors to the kingdom to all (Acts 1:8).
4. Elijah comes before the Day of the Lord (Mal. 4:6; Rev. 11:1-14).
5. Messiah comes and establishes His kingdom on earth (Rev. 19).

**The Bottom Line.** In the midst of my fears, discouragement, and confusion, I am called by God to \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.

### Applying God's Word This Week

- Examine your heart. What are you discouraged about? What are you fearful of? What confuses you or creates doubt in your mind?
- Reflect on your life. What "glimpses of glory" have you had in your life? When have you sensed God's presence, power, or comfort?
- In the valley, remember what God taught you on the mountain.

*The silent interval [six days] speaks loudly to us of the disciples' state of mind. These poor smitten souls were numbed by what they had heard. Jesus' words rested on them as a huge burden that could not be rolled away. The transfiguration was the gracious answer to their need, containing as it did not only the reinforcement of Jesus' teaching about the cross but also the demonstration that beyond the cross lay unspeakable glory.*

—Everett F. Harrison

*Peter was always the man for action; always the man who must be doing something. But there is a time for stillness; there is a time for contemplation, for wonder, for adoration, for awed reverence in the presence of the supreme glory.*

—William Barclay

*The Father interrupts Peter's senseless rambling babbling. The voice from the cloud unites the Psalms (2:7), the prophets (Isa. 42:1), and the law (Deut. 18:15) in an authoritative testimony to His Sonship and Messiahship.*

—S. Lewis Johnson

*They did not see anyone but Jesus only. The word **only** comes at the end of the sentence for emphasis. The disciples must focus on Christ alone. He will prove sufficient for their needs.*

—Craig L. Blomberg

*If we would at once overcome Satan and have peace with God, it must be by "looking unto Jesus."*

*Keep thine eye simply on Him; let His death, His sufferings, His merits, His glories, His intercession, be fresh upon thy mind; when thou wakest in the morning look to Him; when thou liest down at night look to Him.*

—Charles Spurgeon