



The Quarry Gospel Church

BIBLE STUDY - 21.10.20

BIBLE STUDY - JESUS CHRIST: 10.HIS TRANSFIGURATION

(Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36)

The Transfiguration is not simply an "event on the way to Jerusalem"; its importance is reflected in that it is recorded in all 3 Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). It reveals future events for the world and the believer, when we ourselves will be transformed to be like Christ.

1. THE EVENTS OF THE DAY

A. The three disciples, Peter James and John were led up a high mountain by Jesus

Why these three? Why only three?

- Jesus knew what was about to happen. He was establishing a reliable body of witnesses (2-3 witnesses as specified in Scripture);
- Jesus had a special bond with these three disciples:
 - They were given new names;
 - They were chosen to witness the raising of Jairus' daughter;
 - John was "the disciple whom Jesus loved"
- Jesus desired the close friendship of others just as any human might have especially close friends.

B. There was a purpose in the walk up on the mountain - to pray

- Jesus was, once more, teaching them the vital importance of prayer;
- With this "close friendship" came responsibility (*Luke 12:48*)
- Jesus' focus was on the events that lay in front of Him and He naturally turned to prayer;
- It was as He was praying that He was transfigured before them.

C. The Transfiguration

- not simply an outward transformation of His clothing, but a pulling back of a dividing wall for a brief moment;
- Christ was being exposed as the Divine Son;
- *Luke 9:29 - Matthew 17:2* - In one moment, Jesus became "other worldly";
- We should never get into the habit of thinking of Christ as the man of 2000 years ago; The Jesus we worship is the GLORIFIED figure we see in this Transfiguration, as described by John in Revelation 1.

2. THE CONTRASTING PARALLEL BETWEEN THE TRANSFIGURATION AND THE CRUCIFIXION

<u>Transfiguration</u>	<u>Crucifixion</u>
i) He was revealed in glory;	He was crucified in shame and humiliation;
ii) His clothing shone as bright as lightning;	Soldiers divided His bloody garments;
iii) Jesus is seen between two glorious companions;	Jesus was seen between two criminals:
iv) A bright cloud overshadowed them:	Darkness covered the face of the land;
v) God publicly declared Jesus as His beloved Son.. "listen to Him";	Jesus cried, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken me";
vi) Peter said, "Lord it is good to that we are here".	Peter was nowhere to be seen.

Jesus knew that the link between the suffering and glory was inseparable - you couldn't have one without the other. Peter was yet to understand this, but he would one day.

(N.B. *Mark 9:1*, the verse before the account of the Transfiguration, is a prophecy of it and is wrongly used by some who argue the heresy that the 2nd Coming has already taken place.)

3. POINTS OF APPLICATION FOR THE BELIEVER

A. This event answered a prayer

The Transfiguration answered a prayer of Moses!

- *Exodus 33* - Moses asked to see God's glory, but at that time He only saw God's "back" otherwise He would have died. At the Transfiguration Moses gets to see God's face - *Colossians 1:15* and *Hebrews 1:3*.
- What Moses desired to see on earth, He saw "on earth" 100s of years later.
- The three disciples saw more of God's glory at the Transfiguration, than Moses did at Mount Sinai.

B. God's declaration made about Jesus

"This is my Son, my Chosen One, listen to Him"

- *Deuteronomy 18:15* - *"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your fellows Israelites. You must listen to him."*;
- By the clouds and voice on the mountain, God confirmed Jesus as the Messiah; see *Hebrews 1:1-3*;
- *"Listen to Him"* - Jesus alone should be our focus;
- When the cloud lifted only Christ was left. We ignore Him at our peril;
- God declared Christ as the Messiah and so must we.

C. Our own transfiguration

One day we will experience our own transfiguration, we will be transformed and will be like Christ. (1 John 3:2)

Luke - v30 - "Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendour, talking with Jesus"

Moses and Elijah are representative of humanity as obedient people of God.

What do we learn about our transformation from theirs?

1) They were recognised - even though they had died 100s of years before.

How? - we can't be sure, but divine revelation in one possibility.

It points to a reality about heaven - after we have been transformed our identities as individuals will remain and we will be recognisable.

2) But they were different! -

Luke 9:30 (Amplified Version) - "And behold, two men were conversing with Him - Moses and Elijah, Who appeared in splendour *and* majesty *and* brightness and were speaking of His exit [from life], which He was about to bring to realisation at Jerusalem."

Splendour - Majesty - Brightness

- Peter's reaction - "Let's build three tents" - a suggestion of equality amongst the 3 people He saw! At this point God spoke: "This is My Son!"
- What this tells us is that what happens to the Christian when we meet Christ is going to be "out of this world" - so much so people "from this world" might be tempted to worship us!

ONE DAY WE WILL BE LIKE CHRIST!

The Transfiguration is a foretaste of our future!