

The Transfiguration - (Matthew 17.1-13; Mark 9.2-13; Luke 9.28-36)

Sunday AM 07/15/18

Introduction:

Just about any Bible student knows about "The Transfiguration." A key passage in the ministry of Jesus and recorded for us in three of the Gospels. Each is a little different but as each writer stresses things they thought important. But each gives us a clear picture of what happened. We want to take a closer look at this event and learn what we can from it.

I) Background

- A) Earlier Peter had confessed Jesus as the Son of God, *Matthew 16.16ff.***
- B) Jesus then speaks on the Apostles role in the Kingdom, the church, *Matthew 16.19-20***
- C) Then Jesus spoke of His death and Peter rebukes Him, *Matthew 16.21-23.***
- D) Now it is six days later.**

II) Events of the Transfiguration

- A) *Matthew 17.1-3; Luke 9.31***
 - 1. They were speaking about Jesus' departure which means His death.

2. Moses and Elijah understood Jesus was about to die.
3. Why Moses and Elijah? Moses was the great Law Giver, *Deut. 18*. And Elijah was a great prophet. Thus, they represented the Law and the Prophets. *Luke 24.44*

B) They (Moses and Elijah) were speaking about Jesus' death, *Matthew 17.4-5; Mark 9.8*

1. This event was for the disciple's benefit - to listen to Jesus no matter what He said.
2. *Matthew 17.6-8* speaks of the fear of the disciples and Jesus reassuring them to have no fear.
3. This passage connects Jesus' death to His resurrection, *Matthew 17.9*
4. They still did not understand, *Mark 9.10*.

C) The Disciples Question

1. Concerning Elijah coming first, *Matthew 17.10*.
2. This was over half way through the ministry of Jesus and the prophecies of Elijah being fulfilled.
3. Jesus' answer, *Matthew 17.12-13*.
4. This was a monumental event referred to later on by Peter, *2 Peter 1.16-18*.

D) We don't know why Jesus chose these three disciples only or the mountain.

E) We do know why Jesus went to the mountain, to pray, *Luke 9.28*

1. Jesus was transfigured, *Matthew 17.2; Mark 9.3; Luke 9.29*
2. Transformed comes from the Greek word *Metomorphoo*, and where we get the word metophrphosis.
 - a. His face shone like the sun.
 - b. His garments were whiter than white.

III) Four Keys To Understanding the Transfiguration

A) The Approval of God.

1. In the beginning of Jesus' ministry we have God pronouncing Jesus as His Son *Matthew 3.16-17*.
2. Almost three years later we have Jesus still receiving God's approval, *Matthew 17.5*.
3. Jesus had perfectly performed the will of the Father, *Hebrews 4.15*.

B) The Exodus, *Luke 9.31*

1. Departure meaning his death. Exodus literally means "the way out."
2. The exodus of Jesus was his death, burial, and resurrection.
3. The law of Moses was designed to bring man to

Christ, *Galatians 3.16,19, 24, 25*.

4. Elijah came to prepare the people for the Messiah but for their salvation, *Hebrews 9.15*.
5. While the disciples (namely Peter) had a problem with Jesus death, Moses and Elijah recognized the need for it.

C) Authority Defined

1. Peter's suggestion of building three tabernacles, *Matthew 17.4; Mark 9.6; Luke 9.33*.
2. What is meant by Peter did not know what to say or he did not know what he was saying?
 - a. Jesus, Moses, and Elijah were not equals. Only one was the Son of God.
 - b. Jesus did not need a tabernacle to glorify Him.
 - c. Listen to what He says.

D) The Apostles Prepared

1. They were now more willing to listen when Jesus spoke of His death.
2. If Moses and Elijah, the Law and the Prophets spoke of His death; they had to accept it as well.