



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- The Transfiguration

- Matthew 17:1

**And after six days
Jesus taketh**

**Peter, James, and John,
and bringeth them up into
an high mountain apart,**

- **:2 And was transfigured
before them:**

- **On three occasions**
our Lord took three of the disciples
apart with him;
and it was always the same three.

- In the first case,
the raising of the young child,
(Luke 8:51)

- **Transfiguration**
(Matthew 17)

- **Gethsemane**
(Matthew 26:37)

- Matthew 17:3

And, behold, there
appeared unto them
Moses and Elijah
talking with him.

- What might have been the purpose of these two great men appearing and talking with Jesus?
- May I make two suggestions?
 - # 1 Like the angels who ministered to him on other occasions, they were sent to comfort Jesus himself.
(Matthew 4:11)

- He had looked for sympathy from his disciples when he had confided in them the dark secret of his doom, but he had failed to receive it, and instead he had heard the voice of the tempter (Matthew 16:22, 23).
- Thus he was left alone in his meditations of death.
- But the sympathy which failed him on earth was afforded by the founder of Judaism and the greatest of the prophets.

- **# 2** We may conceive that the law in the person of Moses, the great Jewish legislator,
 - and the prophets in the person of Elijah, the chief of the prophets,
 - came now to do homage to Jesus Christ,
 - and to render up their authority into his hands.

- As Jesus was the end of the law,
and
the fulfillment of
the predictions
of the prophets.

- **Luke 9:31**, states that **Moses** and **Elijah** **came to converse** with our Lord on his death,
- Which he was about to **fulfill**.
 - In Him all the **rites**, **ceremonies**, and **sacrifices** of the law, as well as the predictions of the prophets, **were fulfilled**.

- What did **Peter**, **James** and **John** behold?
 - They saw Jesus **change in appearance before their eyes** and display His glory
 - This being evidence **that Jesus is God.**
 - His face
“**shone like the sun,**
And His garments became as white as light.”
(**Matthew 17:3**)

- In the Old Testament it is a description of the the glory of God that Moses saw in Exodus 34.
- That was so great that even the afterglow of God's glory caused his own face to shine.

- It is the description of the glory that filled the temple when it was dedicated to the Lord in 2 Chronicles 7:2 that none of the priests could enter it because the glory was too great.
- The glory that Jesus had here was the same that Isaiah saw in Isaiah 6.

- Moses and Elijah did not appear merely to chat with Jesus.
- They were discussing with Jesus about His coming “departure” from Jerusalem.
(Luke 9:31) {ISV}

- “Departure”

is the word also translated

as “exodus,”

- And refers to

Jesus coming death

and resurrection

in Jerusalem.

- Jesus would depart from this life,
- But His “exodus” from the grave would lead believers out of the bondage of sin.
- Moses and Elijah had come to talk with Jesus about what was soon to be accomplish in Jerusalem.

- Why

Moses and Elijah?

- Why not some other Old Testament figures such as

David, Daniel,
Abraham, Samuel?

- Moses & Elijah
who were representatives
of the

Old Testament Law

and

the Prophets.

- And their presence with Jesus and talking with Him about the coming events in Jerusalem

validated that Jesus was the promised Messiah.

- As Moses and Elijah were leaving Peter begins to respond to what he was seeing.

- Luke 9:4 tells us of his response.

- **“And Peter answered and said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’”**
(Luke 9:4)

- **No answer**
is given to Peter
about his suggestion.
- **Luke 9:33**
adds that Peter spoke,
“**not realizing**
what he was saying.”

- Don't we just love Peter!
 - He is just so like us.
 - Peter was still responding before thinking.
- Though Peter had added the words, "if you wish."
 - Peter still hasn't learned the Lord's admonition to follow and not try to lead.

- **“While {Peter} he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them;**
 - **And behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying: ‘This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!’**
(Matthew 17:5)
- **And when the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were much afraid.”**
(Matthew 17:6)

- In calling Jesus,
“His beloved Son,”

God the Father declares
His relationship of divine love
to the one who is of

identical nature

and

essence with Himself.

- Jesus is the
Messiah.

- He is Immanuel,

- God

- in human flesh.

- There can be
no greater witness

- to this than

- God the Father Himself,

- declares it to be so.

- **This was very similar**
to what occurred
when Jesus was baptized
by John the Baptist
- A voice out of heaven
said almost identically
the same words.
(**Matthew 3:17**)

- The bright cloud being reminiscent of God's presence with the children of Israel during the wilderness wanderings

- When His presence was demonstrated by a pillar of fire at night and a pillar of cloud by day. (Exodus 13:21)

- Out of that bright cloud the voice of God the Father called on them to **listen to His Son.**
- That was the only answer to Peter's suggestion, hopefully reminding him **to follow and not lead.**

- That admonition to listen to Jesus **applies to us** as much as it did to Peter.
- **Last week we talked** about denying ourselves, taking up our cross and following Jesus.
- **Those that listen to Him** will do just that.
- **Those that do not listen** will not take up the cross or follow Jesus.

- How have you done
this past week?
- Have you consciously
thought about
considering yourself dead
and
living only for Christ?
- Or was the effect of last week's sermon
only a passing thought or emotion?
 - The only hope we have
for both this life
and for eternity
is bound up in listening
and following what Jesus says.

- One of the wonderful things about following Jesus is that He is so considerate of our human frailty.
- Peter, James and John were frightened by all that had just occurred, especially the voice of God coming out of the cloud.
- They were no different from anyone who finds themselves in the presence of God when His majesty is on display.

• Isaiah cried out,
“**Woe is me, for I am ruined!
Because I am a man
of unclean lips
and I live among a people
of unclean lips;
For my eyes have seen the King,
the Lord of Hosts.**”
(Isaiah 6:5)

- **Daniel** described himself **as falling with his face to the ground having no strength left in himself.**

(Daniel 10:16)

- That is the **reaction of men** when they come into the presence of the glory of God.

- Verse 7 tells us of Jesus' response to their frailty,
- **“And Jesus came to them and touched them and said, ‘Arise, and do not be afraid.’ And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, except Jesus Himself alone.”**

- **There are many things that can frighten us**
including what we do not understand, things that are more powerful than us, and at times even the presence of God.
 - The good news is **that we do not need to be afraid**
and when we are, there is someone there to comfort us:

- The Lord Jesus Christ who casts out our fear with His perfect love is ever present.
(1 John 4:18)

- The disciples were afraid, and Jesus comforted them.

- We may be afraid of the future or a thousand other things **but we find our comfort in Jesus** who reminds us **what life is about** and calls on us to follow Him.
- We do not have to understand everything, **we just need to follow the directions** that He gives us.

- **“And as they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying,**
- **Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.”**
(Matthew 17:9)

- Jesus will not enter
Jerusalem
for another six months,
and He does not want
to precipitate events
before their time.

- The people have already tried to force Him to be king once after the feeding of the five thousand.
(Matthew 14)
- The news of such an event as this could easily set off another movement to try to make Him king.

- Jesus does not want the story to be told until the right time,
- And that would not be until after He had fulfilled His purpose.
 - He did not come to conquer Rome, but sin and death.

- As they continue down the mountain, the disciples are still perplexed.
- It is hard to think differently after being taught a mixture of truth and error all your life.

- While they believed that Jesus was the Messiah,
- They were struggling to comprehend that He must suffer and die.

- Their confusion was made greater because they could not fit all the pieces together.
- One of those pieces was the prophecy concerning the coming of Elijah to prepare the way for Messiah.

- In verse 10 they ask Jesus about it.

- “**And His disciples asked Him, saying, ‘Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?’”**

- The Scribes interpreted **Malachi 3:1 & 4:5,6** saying that **Elijah** the prophet would return to prepare the way for Messiah.
 - **If that was true**, how could Jesus be the Messiah if Elijah had not yet come and prepared the way?

- Jesus' answer is in two parts.

- The first part is in verse 11.

**“And He answered and said,
‘Elijah is coming
and will restore all things’”**

- Jesus said that the Scribes are correct.
- Elijah is coming and the prophecy will be fulfilled.
- Malachi 4:5-6 says that Elijah would come “before the great and terrible day of the LORD.”

- **Jesus continues,**
in **verse 12,**
“**but I say to you,**
that Elijah already came,
and they did not recognize him,
but did to him whatever they wished.
- **So also the Son of Man**
is going to suffer
at their hands.’
- **Then the disciples understood**
that He had spoken to them
about John the Baptist.”

- The fulfillment of this prophecy confirms that the prophecy of His coming again in judgment will also be fulfilled.
 - What effect has Jesus had on you?
 - Are you ready for His coming?

- What happened on that mountain top took place between Jesus's two statements of impending change.
- “I will be my church”
(Matthew 16:18)
- I must go unto Jerusalem,
and be killed,
(Matthew 16:21)

- The transfiguration story can teach and show us about how to live in the midst of change.

- Change, whether on the mountain top of life
 - or in the valley of the shadow of death is a reality for all of us.

- What can we learn from this glorious event?

- # 1 **“Listen to him.”**
(**17:5**)

- In the midst of change **many voices begin to speak.**
- Some are **outside** of me and some are from **within.**

- There are voices of :
 - Fear,
 - self-doubt,
 - self-criticism,
 - “would've,
 - should've,
 - could've.
- Some voices deny
and some blame.

- The story of the transfiguration says there is only **one voice to listen to.**
- **The voice of God** speaks from the bright cloud overshadowing Peter, James, and, John,
- **“This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him.”**

- What would happen
in our lives

if we really sought
to hear and listen
to that one voice,
the voice of Christ?

- It would mean that whatever change comes upon us it does not have the final word.
- There is another voice.
- One that speaks louder and more powerful than all the other voices.

- In the midst of change
Jesus speaks:
 - words of life,
 - words of hope,
- words of forgiveness,
 - words of mercy,
 - words of courage,
 - words of love,
 - words of healing.

- When Jesus speaks are we listening?
- Are we listening to that word,
to his voice?

- We've all faced change that has caused us to stumble and fall,
paralyzed us,
or left us overwhelmed.

- The three disciples,
Matthew tells us,
**“fell to the ground
and were overcome
by fear.”**
- Jesus touches them
and says,
“Get up.”
(Matthew 17:7)

- But it's more than
just “get up.”
- A more literal translation
would be something like
“be raised up.”
 - The word Matthew
uses here is
the same verb he uses
when Jesus heals the paralytic,
telling him,
“Stand up”
(Matthew 9:6-7);

- Jesus comes to us
in whatever
circumstances of change
we find ourselves,
touches us, and says,
“Get up!”
- It’s the promise
that though life
has changed,
it has not ended.

- All of us live with some level of fear.
 - Change often brings about fear:
- In the midst of change Jesus says, “Do not be afraid.”
 - He speaks to the heart of the human condition.

- His words do not magically eliminate our fear.

- Instead, they are the call to take a first step into a new and changed life despite our fear.

- They are the assurance that change does not have the final word,
Christ does.
- We are not called to be fearless
- But to be courageous
in the midst of change and fear.

- Whatever changes you are going through,

Jesus says:

- **# 1 Listen to me.**
- **# 2 Be raised up.**
- **# 3 Do not be afraid.**

- Those words are **holy words of wisdom** for times of change?
- What if they are the means by which **we step into** **our own** **transfiguration?**

- **It wasn't only Jesus**
who changed
on the mountaintop.
 - It was also
Peter, **James**, **John**.

- **Their eyes were opened**
and their seeing changed.
 - So that everywhere
they looked
they saw
“Jesus himself alone.”
- And maybe they saw Jesus
for the first time
as he had always been.

- And may our lives be
in a like manner
transfigured
and
transformed.
 - Have you
seen Jesus
as He really is?

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say**

“Come”.

Revelation 22:17



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