

EXPECT A MIRACLE - `TRANSFIGURATION

4.16.2023

Ref:

Matt 16:28-17:9

Mark 9:1-9

2 Peter 1:17-18

Luke 9:28-36

²⁸About eight days after these sayings, He took along Peter, John, and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing *became* white and ^{gl}gleaming. ³⁰And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, ³¹who, appearing in ^{gl}glory, were speaking of His departure, which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep; but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who were standing with Him. ³³And as ththese two men were leaving Him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; and let's make three ^{tab}tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not realizing what he was saying. ³⁴But while he was saying this, a cloud ^{fo}formed and *began* to overshadow them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵And *then* a voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!" ³⁶And when the voice ^hhad spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent, and reported to no one in those days any of the things which they had seen.

INTRODUCTION

Clearly supernatural – certainly breathtaking – surely humbling - I mean if the Son of the most high invited me to "come and see" as He opened the door to heaven and let me look in, He would surely have my attention but I would be on my face before the glory of the Living God !!

But why 40 days from His death? Why these disciples and not the others? Why Moses and Elijah? And what was the point of the booths?

And since this is clearly revelation and not a simple "keeping watch" (at which they failed), what was God revealing?

THE DISCIPLES

The Bible doesn't speak to my question about why these three men were selected to be present but it does attest that they were Jesus' inner circle:

These three were the only disciples with Him:

at the raising of Jarius' daughter where He demonstrated His power over the grave

at the Transfiguration where He received heavenly affirmation as the chosen one

and during His agony in the garden where Jesus wrestled with the price He must pay to redeem us from sin – knowing ahead of time the intensity of the suffering of which He would experience –

and in the end submitting Himself to it.

These three men would form the leadership core of the His church after His death and so it seems reasonable to think of this as preparation for their future responsibilities. But to what end? Peter had already recognized Jesus as the Christ so what then?

THE VISION

The passage tells us that Jesus took Peter, James and John up the mountain to pray but that they fell asleep.....we can only surmise that Jesus had such a passion for prayer and found such rest in communion with the Father that enough time passed to overcome the disciple's ability to keep watch.

But can you imagine waking up and the first thing you see is Jesus' face changed and his clothing white and gleaming

They then noticed Moses and Elijah also cloaked in glory....and speaking with Jesus about what He is about to accomplish....40 days before His crucifixion....certainly an affirmation that His suffering, death and resurrection are purposeful and will fulfill the law and the prophets

Moses

Lawgiver – delivered the ordinances which formed Hebrew culture and provided a standard for righteousness

Friend of God – surely his appearance brought to mind the stories that they heard about how Moses' face would shine as he came down from the mountain from talking with God and that he had to put a veil over his face

Called to build a people from a gaggle of slaves

miracles!

Buried by God (Deu 34:6)

Elijah (1 Kings 17-19 / 2 Kings 2)

Prophet – perhaps the greatest prophet

Test of a prophet: truth – so truth giver

Voice of the living God providing reproof, correction and affirmation as God's special possession

never saw death but what was carried up to heaven

resurrected the widow's son

miracles!

So The law and the prophets were present:

These are the foundation of Jewish culture

God used the law and the prophets to mold His chosen people

The disciples knew these men from the stories of their faith but who would expect to see them face to face!

It's no wonder that Peter, faced with this supernatural revelation upon waking, and before he could gather himself to know what he was saying, said: "Master, it is good that we are here; and let's make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" —

Peter did what most of us do when faced with the startling – he fell back on the familiar – his instinct was to respond in a way that moved him toward a comfortable religious response.

He knew about the tabernacle in the wilderness, he knew about the tent of meeting, celebrated the Festival of Booths, but never before had he stood under a heaven that could only have been opened by God!

REVELATION OF THE TRIUNE GOD

As the words are leaving his mouth, the cloud overshadows them, making them afraid the God himself speaks: "This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!" ³⁶And when the voice ³⁷had spoken, Jesus was found alone.

The Eastern Church recognizes this as a declaration of who Jesus is from all members of the Godhead.....Jesus who was present in the earth, the Holy Spirit overshadowing in the cloud and the Father speaking from heaven!

And that unified voice declared that Jesus was not just a prophet or messenger from God but His Son, His Chosen One

And notice God did not say "listen to these guys"but listen to **Jesus** ... Jesus message was the revelation of God's Heart!

That only Jesus remained after the cloud had gone was a declaration that Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets and the ushering in of a new covenant.

Now the Jesus they were looking at was a much different Jesus than the One they had been walking with. The scripture says the "appearance of His face became different , and His clothing became white and gleaming.

Gleaming. When I think of something gleaming, I usually think of maybe the sunlight on a lake, a new

paint job, a polished table. Something soft and beautiful, maybe bright but comfortable and safe. It's interesting to note that the literal words translated as "gleaming" are actually *flashed like lightning!*

Have you ever been near a lightening strike?

As a child – earthshaking!

At the playground – leaves an unmistakable mark as it passes

One of the most dangerous and powerful forces in nature

This was not the humble but bold teacher and healer that they knew.....this was a vision of a heavenly King clothed in power!

This was the power that terrified hell!

This was the power that would live the heart of every believer because of the victory on the Cross!

This was the power that would shake the world as His apostles and disciples went forth to preach the gospel to all nations!

And the darkness and hatred of the world proved no match for the power and love of our King!

THE WORLD

The world today looks more like the world into which the apostles were sent with each passing day.

Like never before in this country, the world is in need of what we have

Fortunately for them, we have been sent, filled with the power of our risen King to give them the good news

John 14:6-7 "Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me. "If you ^{6d}had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him."

Jesus revealed the Father's Heart for us and the Truth of His nature, Jesus lived that Truth at once demonstrating the constancy of God and calling us to follow in His footsteps

He modeled for us every aspect of spiritual life necessary to build and maintain a deep and abiding relationship with our Father in heaven.

And this is our witness before the world

Pastor Francis Frangipane wrote: "The true measure of spirituality is not how angry we are toward sinners, but how Christlike; our mission is not to see men destroyed, but redeemed."

Jesus Way is to walk out the Truth.....

TRUE UNDERSTANDING Matt 22:34-40 "But when the Pharisees heard that *Jesus* had silenced the

Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, ¹⁴a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him: ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the great and ¹⁴foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ Upon these two commandments ¹⁴hang the whole Law and the Prophets.”

Love, mercy, compassion

A love that drove Jesus to endure the shredding of the scourger and the torture of the cross yet offer forgiveness and eternal life to us all.

TRUE FAITH John 3:16-21 ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸ The one who believes in Him is not judged; the one who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light; for their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light, so that his deeds will not be exposed. ²¹ But the one who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds will be revealed ¹⁴as having been performed in God.”

TRUE OBEDIENCE Matt 7: 22+24 ²² Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many ¹⁴miracles?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; leave Me, you who practice lawlessness.’ ²⁴ “Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine, and ¹⁴acts on them, will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

[Matthew 6:1](#) “Take care not to practice your righteousness in the sight of people, to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

It’s not about our works, however powerful, but rather the fidelity of our hearts to the Heart of God
It’s not about who the world sees us to be but rather who the Father, who sees deep into our hearts knows us to be

TRUE PRAYER

[Matthew 5:44](#) But I say to you, love your enemies and **pray** for those who persecute you,

[Matthew 6:1](#) “Take care not to practice your righteousness in the sight of people, to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

[Matthew 6:5](#) “And when you **pray**, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and **pray** in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they will be seen by people. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

[Matthew 6:6](#) But as for you, when you **pray**, go into your inner room, close your door, and **pray** to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

[Matthew 6:7](#) “And when you are **praying**, do not use thoughtless repetition as the Gentiles do, for

they think that they will be heard because of their many words.

So prayer is to be a personal, intimate communion with God, one that prays not just for our needs but for the redemption of the fallen world.

TRUE WORSHIP John 4:22-24 ²²You *Samaritans* worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. ²³But ^{1a}a time is coming, and ^{1b}even now has arrived, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to *be* ^{1c}His worshipers. ²⁴God is ^{1d}spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Samaritans intermarried with the Assyrians and recognized only the Pentateuch.

Rev 4:9-11 ⁹And when the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and they will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they ^{1a}existed, and were created.”

Falling down before Him, casting their crowns, - humility – recognizing that their very existence flowed from God and that He truly is their Lord

Praise comes from the soul but worship comes from the Spirit –

[Romans 12:1](#) Therefore I urge you, brothers *and sisters*, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a **living** and holy **sacrifice**, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

Worship that is from the Spirit declares the worth of God, that everything we have, everything we are, everything that ever has been or will be flows from Him – it recognizes that anything and everything of true value that we have or are or ever will be is from Him and so without Him we have nothing and we are nothing – and yet He has created us in love and longs for intimacy with us so much that He gave the life of His only Son to a horrific death that we would never be separated from Him again. For this we give Him praise, adoration and thanksgiving.

WOMAN WITH ARMS RAISED

This is a picture of a woman fully lost in worship

This is a woman not satisfied with the comfortable soft gleam of Jesus’ reassurance but rather seeking the face of the King clothed in lightening who promised to live in her

This woman was not satisfied just feeling secure in the face of eternity but reaching for the One who can bring eternity to a broken and dying world through her!

In that moment she was more aware of heaven than she was of earth

More aware of God’s Presence than she was of the congregation’s presence

She values her communion with her Savior more than “the program”

As Paul said: *8 More than that, I count all things to be loss [a]in view of the surpassing value of [b]knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, [c]for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them mere rubbish, so that I may gain Christ,*

She is lost in her love for the Savior that:

Took her from darkness and brought her into the light of heaven

Gave her a new heart and mind

Made it possible for her to know Father God and to hear the voice of his Holy Spirit

Most of all made it possible for her to walk in the unfathomable depths of Her Father's love

She knew that keeping her eyes on Jesus is to see the lightening flash – to draw close to Him and be surrounded by His Spirit so that your worldliness fades and His life shines forth

The observer went from feeling sorry for the woman to feeling sorry for himself because he know he was watching from the outside

He had not imagined that such intimacy was possible – yet in that moment he caught a glimpse of the intimacy we were intended to share....but he has only seen the gleam and could not touch the lightening

Perhaps today you are the young woman, deeply in love with your Lord – with joy and gratitude bursting from your heart – for you this is an altar of celebration.....I would like to invite you to come to the altar and lift your hands in praise to the One that has given you new life now and in eternity

Perhaps you are like our friend – and you've never found that intimacy that so completely captures your heart that, as the songs says: " the things of the world grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace"for you this is an altar of invitation to a deeper relationship...a closer walk...a walk that welcomes you to touch the very Heart of God.

Rev 3:20-21 ²⁰Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹The one who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.