

Matthew 17:1-8 The King's Glory (The King and His Kingdom)

I love the view from a Mountain Top – Pic of Mt San Jacinto

A) MT tops provide a different perspective – See the BIG Picture (**Hike – Helicopter – DRIVE**)

B) See how big things are/ Big God/ how Small we are

1) MT tops take work – willing to make the climb or **MY CASE – the Drive – But the Reward is GREAT!**

C) **The Bible is full of MT top experiences** – Many important things happen on mountains in the Bible,

A few of the most dramatic would be the appearance of God on Mount Sinai,

A) first to Moses at the burning bush (Exod. 3-4)

B) then later in Exodus 19 to the nation when the law was given.

C) The Lord descended upon the Mt. in fire – so there was smoke everywhere. –

1) The whole MT quaked - descended on the MT and there was lightning and thunder

D) The sound of a mighty trumpet -

1) The People were so freaked out they told Moses – we don't want God to talk to us anymore.

E) **You talk to him – then he can let you talk to us.**

Another notable Mtn top experience in the Bible was 1 Kings 18 – **Elijah on Mt Carmel with the 450 prophets of Baal.**

A) Recall that story.... Shouting ...cutting ...Your god is on vacation/ toilet

B) Lord show yourself – Fire comes down

C) Well today we come to another MT top experience in the Bible – probably the Most significant of all.

D) Jesus the King is seen in his glory

1) It is commonly called the MT of Transfiguration

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; (Probably Mt Hermon – over 9,000 feet quite a Hike - Mark's gospel tells us Jesus was praying – when Jesus prayed his disciples would sleep so they were sleeping – this is how/why they wake up.) **2 and He was transfigured before them.** His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. 3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. 4 Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." (Moses and Elijah – where did you find that guy? Mark's gospel tells us that Peter said this because he didn't know what to say – but thought he should say SOMETHING!)

E) **Rule of thumb: If you don't know what to say – don't say anything – Keep your big mouth shut!**

5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, (**Peter shut up- not exactly – close**) **"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"** 6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. 7 But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." 8 When they had lifted up their eyes, **they saw no one but Jesus only.**

Now before we unpack this story: I want us to look back at Chapter 16 where we left off in our Thru the Bible study on Wednesday night.

A) So At the close of chapter 16, Jesus told His disciples **V. 27** For the Son of Man will come in the **glory of His Father** (Key phrase) with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. **28** Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

B) Over the centuries, many have suggested that since all of the disciples **died without witnessing His return, Seeing his glory**

1) Was Jesus mistaken - - bring his Deity into question

C) I Believe Chapter 17 is the answer to that question:

D) Jesus takes Peter James and John with him up on this high MT- for this special moment.

E) **WHY THESE THREE?**

A) Seems like Jesus often takes aside these three –
Raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead

B) Later in the Garden of Gethsemane – praying

C) **Were Peter, James and John – the special group?**

1) Some Bible Scholars/ teachers speculate that it was just the opposite –

D) They say these guys were the Remedial group – the special Ed students – needed extra tutoring

I tend to believe they were special because they each had a special calling:

A) James would be the first Disciple to be Martyred –

Aa) Book of Acts early in the start of the Church he is beheaded.

B) Peter would Preach the first and 2nd sermons recorded in the book of Acts – **5,000 conversions after those two sermons**

1) He would write the epistles/letters of 1-2 Peter –

C) As well as give his account of Jesus' life to Mark who would write the gospel of Mark

D) And John would be a pillar in the early Church – Gospel of John –

1) the epistles of 1-3 John and The REVELATION

But which ever way you want to look at it

A) Jesus picks these three for this special Moment on top of this Mt where he is revealed in His glory.

B) They didn't die – before seeing him – Revealed in the Glory of His Kingdom

C) On this Mt Jesus was revealed in 3 aspects of his glory – The Kings Glory

#1 The glory of His Person

2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

A) As far as the record is concerned, this is the only time Jesus revealed His glory in this way while He was on the earth.

B) The word translated *transfigured* gives us our English **word “metamorphosis.”**

1) A metamorphosis is a change on the outside that comes from the inside.

C) When a caterpillar builds a cocoon and later emerges as a butterfly, **it is due to the process of metamorphosis.**

1) Our Lord's glory was not *reflected* from without but *radiated* from within

D) So the Change that they witnessed – the glory that they SAW – came from the inside/ seen out outside

It is the opposite of Hypocrisy:

A) Hypocrisy is putting something on the outside that is not on the Inside:

B) Driving to church – arguing – because you are late

1) Arrive – How is it going – PTL – great ! – Something on the outside that is not in the inside.

C) Being transfigured is the opposite – it is when there is something happening on the inside that affects us on the OUTSIDE

D) There was a change on the outside that came from within as He allowed His essential glory to shine forth (Hebrews 1:3).

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³ **who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person,**

E) The disciples saw – an aspect of the Brightness of that Glory!

See when Jesus came from Heaven to earth- He was fully Man – but he was also fully Divine.

A) He did not lay aside his Deity in becoming a man. He was still the perfect son of God

B) One with the father in every way –
So Fully Man – but also Fully God.

C) But it was his glory that was concealed in his humanity – No one saw his glory!

Paul the Apostle describes it for us in Philippians 2 this way V.5

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, (The exact representation) did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, (the idea behind grasped is held onto, clutched- unwilling to let go- He was holding on to his authority and glory as God at all cost – “**No way am I letting go of my glory**” – No he did the opposite –

⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. Jesus stepped off his throne in heaven and took on flesh – became a man – So His glory was concealed in his humanity

⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (He made himself as a man – like us – subject to God the father – to carry out the plan of God the father to save man from his sin- Even though that would mean he would have to die on the cross -

⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:5-11 ESV

So in this moment Peter James and John get an opportunity to see Jesus in his glory!

A) The glory that is on the inside – gets the chance to shine on the OUTSIDE

B) It is radical – **His face is shining like the sun – clothes are bring as light**

C) **Question: Why Now?** Why does Jesus pick this moment to Reveal himself and let them get a glimpse of his glory?

Remember what we saw in our study last week?

A) The Big Revelation: Who Do men say that I am? – John / Elijah/ Jeremiah

B) Who do you say that I am – Peter – You are the Christ the Son of the Living God

1) Jesus starts talking about – How he is going to build His Church

C) Then he reveals – Going to Jerusalem – where I am going to be killed – but three days later I am going to be raised from the Dead

D) Remember what Peter did? Took Jesus aside and rebuked him – Lord don't talk like that –

1) Downer man – We didn't leave everything to follow a Suffering Messiah

E) Conquering Messiah – Get rid of this Death Stuff

1) Jesus says: Get behind me Satan! – Peter you are being used right now as an instrument of Satan

Well the Disciples are having a hard time computing this information.

A) The idea that he was going to die was not registering with them. They were wrestling with this

B) They are hearing things that they can't reconcile – things that they never would have imagined

C) So Jesus picks this moment at least for these three to bolster their faith –

1) knowing that these three would influence the others. **And it worked**

Impact on John

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. V.14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and **we beheld His glory**, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1-2,14

Impact on Peter

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to **him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,”**

¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, **for we were with him on the holy mountain.** ¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until

the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.” 2 Peter 1:16-19 ESV

Peter says: We saw his glory and heard the voice of God the father when we were w/ him on the Holy Mt.

A) So Jesus reveals Himself to these guys in this moment at this time to help them better process what He was saying –

B) Revealing – Exactly who He was – God in Human flesh

C) He does the same thing with us: We reach a point in our walks with Him – where a heavy trial hits and our faith gets rocked.

We say: Lord everything you have been in my life up to this point has been more than enough

A) But right now I am hurting – right now this doesn't feel like you are enough –
Lord I feel over my head.

B) The Bible speaks of Many colored trials – all shapes and sizes –

1) The Bible also speaks of His Manifold Grace – Many colored grace –

C) His grace speaks of the sufficiency of His power – In the midst of a new trial –

1) where we are like I haven't seen this one before

D) Jesus is transfigured before us – so to speak –

1) He steps in and shows up and meets us in the midst of our weakness

E) And he shows us something of himself that we have never seen before .

1) His manifold grace meets us – Upholds us –
TRANSFORMS US

But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.....¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed** into the same image from one degree of glory to another. 2 Corinthians 3:16,18

E) So First of all The Glory of His person is Revealed.

#2 The Glory of His Kingdom is revealed.

A) Moses and Elijah appear with Him – and get this the Disciples recognize them.

B) Moses who died 2,000 yrs before this – Elijah has been dead 900 yrs

1) There are no introductions here. Jesus doesn't say: Moses and Elijah – meet Peter....

C) But Peter recognizes – **this is Moses and Elijah – let me build.....**

In glory we are going to recognize each other.

A) When we get to heaven: Meet Noah – Joshua – Peter, Paul and Mary (not the singers) ☺ **Family Reunion**

B) See Spurgeon – Whitfield – DL Moody

1) Those of you who love to read Biographies – you are going to recognize these people – know them.

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 1 John 3:2

C) Jesus was 33 yrs old when He rose from the dead – So our glorified bodies will probably be around that age.

1) Looking forward to that – AWESOME to be 33 again

D) Joe Fotch pic of his Dad 30 – that is what he is going to look like

1) Sown in weakness – raised in Power

Now why Moses and Elijah – Why not Joshua and Caleb why these two?

A) The presence of Moses and Elijah was significant.

B) Moses represented the Law and Elijah represented the prophets.

C) Jesus said: He came to fulfill all the law and the prophets

Peter, the man of action, was not one to keep silent and merely marvel at what he was privileged to see.

A) He thought he had to say something. So he blurted out, V.4 “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you,

one for Moses and one for Elijah”

B) Now some Bible teachers have suggested that what Peter was doing here was putting Jesus on same level

1) Same level with Moses and Elijah – Big 3 – First Dream team

C) I don't know if that is true – but God the father interrupts Peter's grand plan:

This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased – Listen to Him – Hear him.

A) Notice how this ends V.8 When they had lifted up their eyes, **they saw no one but Jesus only.**

B) Point. The focus is JESUS ONLY – Not Jesus and something else.

C) That is what Some religions do: They want to add something to Jesus –

1) Jesus is great but you also need to follow this book – or follow these rules –

D) God the Father is telling us – No you can't add to the work of Jesus – you try and you only ruin it

His work ALONE on the cross is sufficient to save us

A) Not Jesus plus this or Jesus plus that

B) Anniversary with my wife – memories – First time we went out for a steak dinner

1) Steak comes and she grabs a bottle of Ketchup – what are you doing!!!!!!!

C) Maui trips: Art Galleries in Lahaina – Look at stuff we could never afford

1) Don't take Crayons or magic Markers

D) Glory of the Kingdom: It is about my Son – Revolves around My Son

1) He is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets

Glory of His Person
Glory of His Kingdom

#3 The Glory of his submission.

A) Luke 9:31- **Moses and Elijah talked about His exodus** – His death

B) They are talking to him about the MISSION –

His plan – what he came to do –

C) His suffering and death would not be an **accident** – but an **accomplishment**

1) He would surrender – not taken – He willingly surrender -

We see the glory of his submission when the Father – says from Heaven

A) This is my beloved Son – in whom I am well pleased – Hear Him!

B) We experience – the Glory of God in our lives when we do just that

1) Slow down – Stop doing and being

C) Peter said: Lord this is great – let me build

1) God said – not the time to Build – TIME TO LISTEN

Climbing a Mountain takes time – Friend yesterday: 5 Hrs

A) Are we willing to take the time – to put out the distractions – and get in His presence

B) There are many voices talking today: What is right – Wrong –

1) Many voices about Life –

C) Who are you listening to?

The Father says: This is my beloved son – HEAR HIM – LISTEN TO HIM

A) Connect to him!

B) Open your heart