

## THE FOCUS OF OUR FAITH

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1. We are now about two and one half years into the ministry of Christ and six months from the Cross.
2. From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. Matthew 16:21
3. This new emphasis was very troubling to Jesus' disciples as evidenced by Peter's response. Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You." (Matthew 16:22)
4. Jesus pointed out:
  - a. That Peter had a wrong perspective, and that perspective was instigated by Satan and not God.
  - b. That following Him required self-denial and taking up one's cross.
  - c. That real life is found in death to self.
  - d. That a person's soul is of more value than the combined wealth of the world.
  - e. That Jesus will one day come again in power and glory.
  - f. That some of them would be given a preview of that glory.
5. Six days (eight days if you count partial days) later Jesus chose Peter, James and John and led them up to a high mountain by themselves.
  - a. Had Jesus taken all twelve of the disciples He would not have been able to prevent the multitudes from following them.
  - b. These three men formed an inner-circle.
  - c. They would be able to provide a credible witness as to what took place. 2 Peter 1:16-18  
For we did not follow cleverly devised tales 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, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased" — 18 and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.
6. Jesus, in preparing His disciples for what was to come, provided them with a powerful testimony as to who He was.

### **I. The testimony of the Transfiguration itself.**

A. According to Luke 9:27-36:

1. Jesus went up to the mountain to pray.
2. While He was praying the appearance of His face became different (shown like the sun), and His clothing became white and gleaming.

NOTE: Matthew declared that Jesus was transfigured (metamorphoo) before Peter, James and John.

3. Moses and Elijah appeared and talked to Jesus about His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.
4. Amazingly we read, "Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep; but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him." (Luke 9:32)

NOTE: On several occasions while Jesus prayed the disciples slept.

- B. Thankfully they woke up in time to witness a powerful demonstration of who Jesus was.
- C. Jesus manifested the glory of God, and you and I are to manifest the glory of Christ.

- 1. Romans 12:1-2

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed (metamorphoo) by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

- 2. 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed (metamorphoo) into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

## **II. The testimony of Moses and Elijah.**

- A. It was appropriate that Moses and Elijah, as representatives of the Law and the Prophets, would discuss with Jesus what was to come.

NOTE: After His crucifixion and resurrection Jesus made it clear that everything that had happen to Him had been clearly taught in the Old Testament.

- 1. On the road to Emmaus Jesus told two discouraged followers, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. (Luke 24:25-27)

- 2. Later they joined a larger group that included the eleven disciples in Jerusalem, and when Jesus appeared to them He declared, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem." (Luke 24:44-47)

- B. In Luke 9:23 we read, "And as these were leaving Him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tabernacles: one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah' — not realizing what he was saying."

NOTE: In the glory of the moment Jesus' teaching related to His suffering and death was quickly forgotten, and Peter wanted to prolong the experience as long as possible.

## **III. The testimony of God the Father.**

- A. As Moses and Elijah were departing and Peter was speaking a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice was heard saying, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

- 1. Listen to what He is telling you about what must take place.
- 2. Listen to what He is telling you about what it means to follow Him.
- 3. Listen to what He is telling you about the worth of a soul.
- 4. Listen to what He promised concerning His glorious return.

- B. Notice the response of Peter, James and John.

- 1. When the disciples heard this (the voice of God), they fell face down to the ground and were terrified. (Matthew 17:6)

2. It is questionable if those who have no fear of God have ever really come to know Him.
- C. In Christ we are fear God, but we do not need to be afraid of Him. (Matthew 17:7)  
And Jesus came to them and touched them and said, “Get up, and do not be afraid.”  
NOTE: Only those who are truly touched by the Lord Jesus Christ will be able to stand in God’s presence unafraid.
- D. “And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone.” (Matthew 17:8)

### **APPLICATION**

1. Does our life include extending time alone with God and His Word?
2. Is Jesus Christ the focus of our lives?
3. Are we listening to Him?
4. Are we obeying Him?
5. Do we really know Him?