

Sermon Study

Missing Jesus' Superiority
Matthew 17:1-13

vision

Eastview
Christian
Church is a
fearless church
of Christ
followers whose
ridiculous love
and dangerous
witness are
irresistible.



AUTHOR'S NOTE (summary of key points for this study)

Seeing Christ in His glory is awesome, awe-inspiring, fearful, powerful. We respond with hope. It helps us look to eternal rewards; no death, no pain, no suffering, joy evermore. Yet like Peter seeing Christ on the cross, the vision of that sacrifice changes us. His love melts us, humbles us, and points to our eternal need for a savior; for this Savior who is loving, compassionate and self-sacrificing. This Jesus. Listen to Him.

Gather (your group getting to know each other)

1. Share an experience in life where not understanding something well enough, got you into trouble.
2. Was this lack of understanding due to poor presentation, or lack of listening?

Go
(your group on mission)

Since we have not yet received our “glory,” let us strive to be like the post-cross Peter, sharing God’s love with our brothers and sisters in Christ and those who have not yet met Him.

Grow (your group growing as Christ-followers)

Key Scripture:

Matthew 17:5b. “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.”

Discussion:

1. Have someone open in prayer.

2. Have someone read aloud Matthew 17:1-13.

3. What does this transfiguration (re-read verse 2) tell us about the person of Jesus? Discuss in the light of the following scriptures: Exodus 13:21-22, 34:29-34, 2 Chronicles 7:2-3.

4. To the Jewish nation, Moses and Elijah represented the entire Old Testament; law (Moses, the giver of God’s law) and prophets (Elijah, the great prophet). What are the possible significances of Moses and Elijah being present with Jesus when He is in His transfigured glory? Helpful scripture: Matthew 5:17, 7:12, 22:37-40, Luke 16:16, John 1:17.

5. Peter is a rather exuberant, impulsive, feet-first, “my way or the highway” sort of guy! Douglas Sean O’Donnell says this about Peter, “If Peter had his way...we would not have a Christless Christianity, but a cross-less one.” Let’s look at Peter in the following scriptures: Matthew 16:15-17, 16:21-23, Luke 22:33-34, 22:55-62, John 13:8-9, 18:10-12.

6. Discuss some of the pitfalls of the impulsive, self-willed actions that Christians take when we don’t listen to Jesus or we hear him but don’t obey.

7. How did this experience of seeing the glorified Jesus affect James and John?

a. What did they desire? See Matthew 20:20-23

b. What did they fail to listen to? See Matthew 17:12

8. How can this focusing only on Jesus’ glory and power without remembering his suffering and death lead Christians to believe in an unbiblical, cost-free followership of Jesus? See Matthew 6:21, 19:28-30, 20:25-28, Luke 9:23-25, 1:25-33.

9. This transfiguration clearly points to Christ’s exultation above all others. God the Father interrupts Peter’s “equal-honoring tent building” by saying, “This is my Son.” Jesus is supreme over even the greatest Old Testament law-giver and prophet. HE HAS NO EQUAL; HE IS OVER ALL. Have you ever considered anyone equal to Christ? (Religious leaders, past or present, popes, Prophets, wisemen, gurus, priests, philosophers, parents, or pastors?) See Matthew 1:21-23, 9:6, 28:18, John 1:1-5 and 14, Philippians 2:9-11, Revelation 1:8, 7:9-12.

10. Peter, after the cross, is a different person. Discuss this change in light of the following verses: 1 Peter 1:3-7, 18-19, 2:21-25, 3:8-9, 15-17, 5:5-7.

Give
(your group serving each other)

Take time to pray for each other that we would come to understand both Jesus’ glory and His sacrificing love.