

The Transfiguration of Christ
(Matthew 17:1-9)

Introduction:

1. In our study of the Lord's prayer (John 17) this morning, we pointed out that Jesus prayed on many occasions.
2. This evening we are concentrating on a special event that took place while Jesus was praying -- the Lord's Transfiguration.
3. To help us more fully understand exactly what happened on this occasion, let us also read Mark 9:2-9 and Luke 9:28-36.
4. As we begin our study, let us examine . . .

Discussion:

I. THE SETTING

- A. On this occasion, Jesus took 3 of His apostles [Peter, James, and John] *"apart."*
- B. They went up on a high mountain.
- C. Jesus had a purpose for going there -- He went there to pray (Luke 9:28).
- D. As He prayed, something very special took place.

II. JESUS WAS "TRANSFIGURED" [HIS APPEARANCE WAS CHANGED]

- A. (Luke 9:29) *"The fashion of his countenance was altered."*
- B. (Matthew 17:2) *"His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light."*
- C. (Mark 9:3) His clothes were whiter than any *"fuller"* could whiten them.
- D. Something very special was taking place, but then . . .

III. MOSES AND ELIJAH APPEARED WITH JESUS

- A. Moses was the great lawgiver, but he had died about 1,500 years earlier.
- B. Elijah had gone *"up by a whirlwind into heaven"* 850 years earlier (2 Kings 2:11).
- C. According to Luke 9:31, Moses and Elijah:
 1. *"appeared in glory"*
 2. spoke to Jesus about *"His decease which He should accomplish at Jerusalem."*

IV. PETER WANTED TO BUILD 3 TABERNACLES

- A. (Luke 9:32) Peter, James, and John had fallen asleep.
- B. (Luke 9:33) Peter made his request as Moses and Elijah departed.
- C. (Mark 9:6) Peter did not know what to say because he, James, and John were afraid.

V. GOD SPOKE FROM HEAVEN

- A. God identified Jesus as His Son in whom He is well pleased.
- B. God also instructed Peter, James, and John to *"hear"* Jesus.
- C. (Matthew 17:6) The apostles were afraid when they heard God's voice.

VI. JESUS SPOKE TO PETER, JAMES, AND JOHN

- A. He comforted them so they would not be afraid.
- B. He told them not to tell anyone about this event until after His resurrection.
- C. Peter wrote about it in 2 Peter 1:16-18.

Conclusion:

1. At one time God spoke to His people through Moses and the prophets.
2. However, when Jesus was transfigured God said that we are to listen to His Son.
3. Jesus is God's spokesman today (Hebrews 1:1-3), and He speaks to us through His New Testament (Hebrews 9:15).
4. In John 14:23 Jesus said that those who listen to Him will be blessed abundantly.