

Text Matthew 17:1-9 NIV

Jesus Is Definitely God!

Are we listening to Him?

Sunday, March 2 at 8:00 & 10:45

The Transfiguration of our Lord – 2014

Ash Wednesday is on March 5; Join us at 11 AM or 7 PM

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Deceptive schemes are common in today's world. ♦Ladies are asking: Is it really a Coach purse **or** is it a knock-off? ♦Teachers are questioning: Did this student write this paper **or** did he copy it from the internet? ♦Employers are wondering: Is this a legitimate diploma **or** a fraud? *Knowing the truth is important!*

Even more important *is our certainty about Jesus!* ♦Was He just a good teacher **or is He God in the flesh?** ♦Was He a skilled magician **or did God work great miracles through Him (John 10:32)?** ♦Did He simply claim to be the Christ **or is He the One sent by God to take away the sin of the world?** I don't have the answers today on purses, papers, or diplomas, *but God wants to make us absolutely certain* ♦that Jesus is God, ♦that His miracles were legitimate, and ♦that He did take away the sin of the world – *including yours and mine!*

1. **Setting and Sight:** ¹ After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. //

a. So what happened six days earlier? Jesus announced His upcoming death: "From that

time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." (Mat 16:21 NIV)

- b. Why only Peter, James, and John? They were the closest to Jesus. They were also the only disciples present ♦when Jesus raised a dead girl to life (Mark 5:21-24, 35-43) and ♦when Jesus prayed in Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-42).
- c. What was significant about Jesus' transfiguration? He visibly showed Peter, James, and John that He is more than a man; *try to imagine His facing shining like the sun!* Dr. Kretzmann explained: "...this appearance of Christ intends to show in deed and truth what Peter...has confessed: Jesus, the man born of the Virgin Mary, is [the] Christ the Son of the living God." (NT 1:93)

2. **Heavenly Glimpse:** ³ Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. ⁴ Peter said to Jesus, "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." //

- a. Why Moses and Elijah? Various answers could be given: For Moses, only God knew the location of his grave (Deut. 34:5-6) and he is the one who received God's Law. For Elijah, he was taken to heaven without having died (2 Kgs 2:11) and he is an excellent representative of prophecy. So, *on*

that mountain, they may have spoken with Jesus about His work to ♦ fulfill the Law and to ♦ fulfill the hundreds of prophecies written about Him!

- b. How did Peter recognize Moses and Elijah? For a short time on that mountain, *it's as if they were more in heaven than on earth*:
 - i. Jesus' glory: His state of humiliation is now past; He said He would return *"with power and great glory."* (Mat 24:30 NIV)
 - ii. They knew each other: Paul wrote about a time to come: *"...then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."* (1Co 13:12 NIV)
3. **Endorsement and Command:** ⁵ *While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" //*
- a. How do we know Jesus is God's Son? These are some of the ways: ♦ An angel appeared to Mary, then to Joseph; ♦ His virgin birth; ♦ His visit by the wise men; ♦ the unique presences of the Father and the Spirit at His baptism; ♦ His teaching with authority; ♦ His fulfillment of hundreds of OT prophecies; ♦ His transfiguration; and ♦ the Father saying a second time: *"This is my Son..."*
 - b. Listen to Him: On one occasion, *"a woman in the crowd called out, 'Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you.'"* ²⁸ [Jesus] replied, *'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.'*" (Luke 11:27-28 NIV) Also, *when Jesus preached about the two houses (Mat 7:24-*

27), one built on the rock and one on the sand, there is only one small difference between the two: the wise man *put Jesus' words into practice*, the foolish man *did not*. Dr. Kretzmann wrote: *"Him they should hear, to Him, in His Word, they should render unquestioned obedience."* (NT 1:94) We desire to listen and obey, never to be saved but *because God first took action to love us and save us thru Jesus!*

4. **Faith over Feelings:** ⁶ *When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.* ⁷ *But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid."* ⁸ *When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.* ⁹ *As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."* // We can also experience the feeling of terror, *but Jesus is calling us to trust in Him for eternal life and even every circumstance of this life!* There was a time for Peter, James, and John to remain silent, but finally they bore witness of what they saw and heard!

Conclusion: Jesus told His followers: *"What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops."* (Mat 10:27 NAS) Therefore, ♦ certain of who Jesus is and ♦ rejoicing in His removal of our sins, *let us gladly share the good news of God's forgiveness!* And all God's people said: **Amen!**