

# THE GOSPEL OF MARK "transfiguration"

## TURNING TOWARDS JERUSALEM

\*It is downhill from here to the valley of shame and humiliation. The rest of the gospel account will focus on the rising opposition, suffering and death.

## "TRANSFIGURED"

\*The Greek word is "metamorpho" and it means to transform, literally or figuratively to metamorphose, or to change. The word is a verb that means to change into another form. It also means to change the outside to match the inside. The prefix "meta" means to change and the "morphe" means form. In the case of the transfiguration of Jesus Christ it means to match the outside with the reality of the inside. To change the outward so that it matches the inward reality. Jesus' divine nature was "veiled" (Hebrews 10:20) in human form and the transfiguration was a glimpse of that glory.

\*When Moses met with God his face glowed – but the word transformed was not used. Here Jesus body was transformed not just his clothing.

\*Shinning white clothing is a feature of accounts of appearances of heavenly beings, Mark 16:5, Matthew 28:3, Luke 24:4, John 20:12, Acts 1:10, Daniel 7:9, Psalm 104:1-2.

## WHY MOSES AND ELIJAH?

- \*The 'deathless ones' Deuteronomy 34:5-6, 2 Kings 2:11 (Enoch was the third)
- \*Elijah was a model for suffering of God's spokesman at the hands of the ungodly and despair in the wilderness (1 Kings 19:14) and Moses found himself repeatedly rejected by his people.
- \*Moses face glowed after meeting with God – Exodus 34:29-35
- \*Moses took three companions up on the mountain to meet with God –Exodus 24:1,9
- \*They had a vision of divine glory – Exodus 24:10
- \*Cloud covered the mountain – Exodus 24:15
- \*After 6 days Moses went up into it – Exodus 24:16
- \*There God spoke to Moses – Exodus 25
- \*Moses relayed the words of God and the people promised to obey – Exodus 24:3, 7.
- \*Elijah met with God on the same mountain – 1 Kings 19:8-18
- \*They spoke of his departure in the Luke account. Luke 9:31

### Mark 9:2-13 (NIV)

<sup>(2)</sup> After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. <sup>(3)</sup> His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. <sup>(4)</sup> And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>(5)</sup> Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." <sup>(6)</sup> (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) <sup>(7)</sup> Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" <sup>(8)</sup> Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. <sup>(9)</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. <sup>(10)</sup> They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what "rising from the dead" meant. <sup>(11)</sup> And they asked him, "Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?" <sup>(12)</sup> Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected?" <sup>(13)</sup> But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him."

"This story has united two expectations which were alive in Judaism; the coming of the prophet on the end-time who is like Moses and the appearing of Elijah at the dawning of the end-time. It has declared to every Jew that the fulfillment of the History of Israel and of every hope for the glorious end-time have already begun with the coming of Jesus." Schweizer

## WHY PETER, JAMES AND JOHN?

- \*Are the first called – Mark 1:16-20. Their names head the list of the twelve – Mark 3:16-17. They are chosen to come with Jesus at the raising of Jarius's daughter from the dead – Mark 5:37-43. Peter is the first to confess Jesus as the Christ – Mark 8:27-30. James and John try to exploit this close relationship to be seated next to him in his Kingdom – Mark 10:35-45. They are the three that go with Jesus in the dark hours of Gethsemane – Mark 14:33
- \*This fulfills the law where things had to be verified by two or three witnesses. Matthew 18:16, 2 Corinthians 13:1, 1 Timothy 5:19, Hebrews 10:28.
- \*Were they the strongest and special disciples or the ones who needed more revelation/experiences to prepare them for what they would have to face?
- \*Peter—a prominent leader in the church, Crucified upside down. 2 Peter 1:16-18
- \*James—the first apostle to die a martyr's death. He was put to death by King Herod Agrippa. Acts 12
- \*John—the only disciple who would die of old age—the last of the Apostles who had the vision of Jesus in Revelation. John 1:14

### 2 Peter 1:16-18 (NIV)

<sup>(16)</sup> We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>(17)</sup> For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." <sup>(18)</sup> We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

### John 1:14 (NIV)

<sup>(14)</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## PETER'S REACTION

- \*Someone has said that there are only two kinds of speakers: those who have something to say, and those who have to say something!
- \*Peter didn't want to moment to go away—build something that will keep it here. Mountain Top experiences don't last and won't carry us to future obedience.
- \*Peter did not recognize (still didn't get it) the uniqueness of Jesus and his superiority over Moses and Elijah.
- \*The Feast of Tabernacles was celebrated every year by the Jews; it commemorated the wilderness wandering or temporary sojourn of the people until they settled in the land. The people therefore would build the little shelters and live under them for the week, only to come out of them at the end, at the great day of the feast (with much relief we might add). The seven day festival not only commemorated the temporary sojourn of the people in the wilderness, but in this age, for the final great day was a celebration of the settlement in the land, and (in the future) the culmination of the promises. Peter had the right idea but the wrong time. Exodus 23:16, 34:22, Leviticus 23:34, 39, Numbers 29:12, Deuteronomy 16:13, 16, 31:10, John 7:1-2

## WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT JESUS?

- \*He could have left at anytime and not have to face the cross. Eternity was always right there for Jesus—but He choose to rescue us not abandon us.
- \*The association with Moses and Elijah shows Jesus Messianic role. Malachi 4:5
- \*Before the crown there was the cross.
- \*The true nature of Jesus—He was not just a man but the Son of God.

## APPLICATION

- \*Of what is yet to be—our future glorification. We will be transformed as was Jesus—1 John 3:2
- \*We are told by Paul in Romans 12:1-2 to be transformed—we are to begin the changes in our spiritual life that will be completed when we are in Heaven.
- \*There will be no need for introductions nor will there be in Heaven.
- \*An encounter with Jesus demands a response. Are we listening to Jesus? Are we obeying him? This proves whether we are a real Christian. Read I John 2:3-5

### 1 John 3:2 (NIV)

<sup>(2)</sup> Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.