

Series: Peter: The Transformed Life
Text 1 Peter 1:16-18; Matthew 17:1-13;
Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36
Title: Declaration of the Soul: “Let’s build a tent!”

Matthew 17:1-13

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. 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.”

⁵ While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

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.”

¹⁰ The disciples asked him, “Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?”

¹¹ Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. ¹² But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.” ¹³ Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.

Let us look at the last portion of this text in order to gain a better understanding of the first portion.

Elijah had to come first

- Jesus declares that Elijah had come

Malachi 3:1-2

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

² *But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire.*

Malachi 4:5

⁵ *"See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.*

- John declares the same that Elijah had come

John 1:23

²³ *John [the baptizer] replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'*

The Messiah, who will bring refiner's fire and judgment

The Witnessing of the Event

- Days after this conversation of the identity of Christ
- Peter, James and John are invited to the mountain.
 - Two or three witnesses

2 Peter 1:16

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

2 Corinthians 13:1

This is the third time I am coming to you. Every charge must be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

Deuteronomy 19:15

“A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.”

- This was to be an important event and it must have the biblically mandated witness present.
- They grow sleepy as they did in the garden.
- God is inviting many to great things, yet our flesh does not see the importance; we grow sleepy and tired; not understanding the greatness of God’s glory.

Jesus Revealed

Luke - And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white.

Mark - And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.

Matthew - His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

Moses, Elijah and Jesus Talking

They were talking with Jesus

- Luke - two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure.

Moses – The Law

Exodus 24 – the story of Moses going up the mountain

Then he said to Moses, “Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. 2 Moses alone shall come near to the Lord, but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with him.”

3 Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the rules.[a] And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.” 4 And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the

mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. 5 And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. 6 And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." 8 And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."

9 Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, 10 and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. 11 And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

12 The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." 13 So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. 14 And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them."

15 Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 16 The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. 17 Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. 18 Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Elijah – the Prophet

- 2 Kings 2 – Elijah taken up
- Elijah to be the forerunner of the Messiah

These two were the perfect individuals to join Jesus on the mountain. They were discussing his death and departure.

Peter's Declaration

- Rabbi (Lord, master)
- It is good that we are here - all
- Let's build three tents - all

Luke – Not knowing what he said.

Mark – he did not know what to say. He was terrified.

Matthew – if you wish, I will put up three tents.

I will build –

- make a monument to the moment
- we establish these benchmarks and hold to them tightly
- I will form my positions
- I will establish my beliefs
- I will set up my faith as I see fit

Three tents

- Many faiths see Jesus on a continuum of holy men
- A progression –
- One among many
- The “Ascended Ones”
- Let’s build three tents – equal footing

While Peter was still speaking!

The Cloud and Voice of God

- This cloud was present at the giving of the Law
- Luke - a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud...
- Mark - And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud...
- Matt - While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said...

Heaven’s Declaration LISTEN TO HIM

A Voice

Matthew – “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

Mark - “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.”

Luke - "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!"

Where have we heard this vice before? **Jesus' baptism**

"You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Matthew 5:17-18

Jesus said, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Law and prophets hinge upon and are fulfilled by Jesus

In this moment these three men became eye witnesses to the glory of Christ and they were called to:

LISTEN TO HIM!

Not to themselves

Not to their own devises or created thoughts about him

Not to the world's view of him

But He alone – above all not equal to

Philippians 2:5-11 ESV

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

CHALLENGE

Stop Relying on Your Own Strength

Stop Lowering Jesus to Lesser Status

Stop Relying on Society

Start Listening to Jesus