

Witnessed By Disciples Matthew 17:1-12

Introduction

In this scripture three disciples have a spiritual encounter with Jesus.

Jesus is Transfigured (vv.1-5)

Jesus takes the inner circle disciples (Peter, James & John) up to a mountaintop. While there, Jesus is transfigured before them and speaks to Elijah and Moses. The disciples are amazed. Peter speaks up and suggested making shelters so that they can stay for a time and really absorb what they are seeing. Peter did not want to miss anything. After Peter made this remark God spoke from Heaven identifying Jesus as His Son in whom He was pleased.

The Disciples Are Amazed (vv. 6-9)

When God spoke the disciples were so afraid that they fell face down on the ground. Jesus told them not to be afraid and when they looked up, Jesus was the only one there. Jesus told the disciples not to tell anyone about what they had witnessed until after His resurrection

Jesus and the Disciples Talk about Elijah (vv. 10-12)

As they were leaving the mountaintop the disciples asked Jesus why the teachers of the law insist that Elijah was to come before the Messiah. Jesus tells them that Elijah was indeed supposed to come and make the way ready for the Messiah. Jesus went on to say that Elijah had already come – in the form of John the Baptist (Luke 1:17) – but that no one recognized him for what he was.

Life Application

Every believer will have a “mountaintop experience” during their Christian journey. It will be a time when nothing else matters except the presence of the Holy Spirit. When these occasions arise we should not allow anything to distract us from our time with Lord. It is truly and honor and privilege to have an up-close and personal experience with God.

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of

your presence, O LORD. They rejoice in your name all day long; they exult in your righteousness. –Psalm 89:15-16 (NIV)

Questions for Discussion and Meditation

*Why did Jesus choose Peter, James and John to go to the mountain with Him?
Why did Peter want to put up three tabernacles on the mountain?
In what sense are Christians transfigured when they receive salvation?*

Preview of Next Week's Lesson

In Matthew 26 a woman in Bethany show her love for Jesus in an extravagant way.