



SUNDAY CLASS

5/3/09

Key Verses: Matthew 17: 1-13

Matthew 17:1 (New International Version)

THE TRANSFIGURATION

¹After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

"In this chapter we have,

I. Christ in his pomp and glory transfigured (v. 1–13).

II. Christ in his power and grace, casting the devil out of a child (v. 14–21).

III. Christ in his poverty and great humiliation,

1. Foretelling his own sufferings (v. 22–23).

2. Paying tribute (v. 24–27). So that here is Christ, the Brightness of his Father's glory, by himself purging our sins, paying our debts, and destroying for us him that had the power of death, that is, the devil. Thus were the several indications of Christ's gracious intentions admirably interwoven."

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Mark 9:2-8 (New International Version)

The Transfiguration

²After 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. ³His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

⁵Peter 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." ⁶(He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

⁷Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

⁸Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.



"THE TRANSFIGURATION – MATTHEW 17:1-13"

Luke 9:28-36 (New International Version)

The Transfiguration

²⁸About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray.²⁹As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.³⁰Two men, Moses and Elijah,³¹appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.³²Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.³³As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.)³⁴While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.³⁵A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."³⁶When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen.

"*Note, We have here the story of Christ's transfiguration; he said that the Son of man should shortly come in his kingdom, with which promise all the three evangelists industriously connect this story; as if Christ's transfiguration were intended for a specimen and an earnest of the kingdom of Christ, and of that light and love of his, which therein appears to his select and sanctified ones.**

*****Note, The call is, Come up hither, Rev. 4:1; Rev.4:3. The witnesses of it. He took with him Peter and James and John.**

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Revelation 4:1 (King James Version)

¹After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter.

“(1.) He took three, a competent number to testify what they should see; for out of the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established. Christ makes his appearances certain enough, but not too common; not to all the people, but to witnesses (Acts 10:41), that they might be blessed, who have not seen, and yet have believed.

(2.) He took these three because they were the chief of his disciples, the first three of the worthies of the Son of David; probably they excelled in gifts and graces; they were Christ’s favorites, singled out to be the witnesses of his retirements. They were present when he raised the damsel to life, Mk. 5:37. They were afterward to be the witnesses of his agony, and this was to prepare them for that.

*****Note, A sight of Christ’s glory, while we are here in this world, is a good preparative for our sufferings with him, as these are preparatives for the sight of his glory in the other world.**

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Matthew 26:36-38 (New International Version)

Gethsemane

³⁶Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."³⁷He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.³⁸Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

Mark 5:37-40 (New International Version)

³⁷He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James.³⁸When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly.³⁹He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep."⁴⁰But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was.

*****Note, Those that would have a transforming fellowship with God, must not only retire, but ascend; lift up their hearts, and seek things above.**

Matthew 17:2 (New International Version)

²There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

"The manner of it (v. 2); He was transfigured before them. The substance of his body remained the same, but the accidents and appearances of it were greatly altered; he was not turned into a spirit, but his body, which had appeared in weakness and dishonor, now appeared in power and glory. He was transfigured, metamorphosed — he was metamorphosed. The profane poets amused and abused the world with idle extravagant stories of metamorphoses, especially the metamorphoses of their gods, such as were disparaging and diminishing to them, equally false and ridiculous; to these some think Peter has an eye, when, being about to mention this transfiguration of Christ, he saith, We have not followed cunningly devised fables when we made it known unto you, 2 Pt. 1:16. Christ was both God and man; but, in the days of his flesh, he took on him the form of a servant — morphen doulou, Phil. 2:7. He drew a veil over the glory of his godhead; but now, in his transfiguration, he put by that veil, appeared en morphe theou —in the form of God (Phil. 2:6), and gave his disciples a glimpse of his glory, which could not but change his form. The great truth which we declare, is, that God is light (1 Jn. 1:5), dwells in the light (1 Tim. 6:16), covers himself with light, Ps. 104:2. And therefore when Christ would appear in the form of God, he appeared in light, the most glorious of all visible beings, the first-born of the creation, and most nearly resembling the eternal Parent. Christ is the Light; while he was in the world, he shined in darkness, and therefore the world knew him not (Jn. 1:5, 10); but, at this time, that Light shined out of the darkness."

Psalm 104:2 (New International Version)

² He wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent

Daniel 7:9 (New International Version)

⁹ "As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.

Matthew 28:3 (New International Version)

³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (New International Version)

¹⁸And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Revelation 1:16 (New International Version)

¹⁶In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

Revelation 4:3 (King James Version)

³And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

Revelation 10:1 (New International Version)

¹Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars.

Matthew 17:3 (New International Version)

³Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

“These two were Moses and Elijah, men very eminent in their day. They had both fasted forty days and forty nights, as Christ did, and wrought other miracles, and were both remarkable at their going out of the world as well as in their living in the world. Elijah was carried to heaven in a fiery chariot, and died not. The body of Moses was never found, possibly it was preserved from corruption, and reserved for this appearance. The Jews had great respect for the memory of Moses and Elijah, and therefore they came to witness of him, they came to carry tidings concerning him to the upper world. In them the law and the prophets honored Christ, and bore testimony to him. Moses and Elijah appeared to the disciples; they saw them, and heard them talk, and, either by their discourse or by information from Christ, they knew them to be Moses and Elijah; glorified saints shall know one another in heaven. They talked with Christ.”

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Matthew 17:4 (New International Version)

⁴Peter 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."

*****Note, Christ has communion with the blessed, and will be no stranger to any of the members of that glorified corporation.**

*****Note, Communion with Christ is the delight of Christians.**

*****Note, Those that by faith behold the beauty of the Lord in his house, cannot but desire to dwell there all the days of their life.**

It is good having a nail in God's holy place (Ezra 9:8), a constant abode; to be in holy ordinances as a man at home, not as a wayfaring man. Peter thought this mountain was a

fine spot of ground to build upon, and he was for making tabernacles there; as Moses in the wilderness made a tabernacle for the Shechinah, or divine glory. It argued great respect for his Master and the heavenly guests, with some commendable forgetfulness of himself and his fellow-disciples, that he would have tabernacles for Christ, and Moses, and Elias, but none for himself."

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Mark 9:5 (New International Version)

⁵Peter 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."

Luke 9:33 (New International Version)

³³As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.)

Matthew 17:5 (New International Version)

⁵While 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!"

"Now concerning this testimony from heaven to Christ, observe.

1. How it came, and in what manner it was introduced.

- (1.)** There was a cloud. We find often in the Old Testament, that a cloud was the visible token of God's presence; he came down upon mount Sinai in a cloud (Ex. 19:9), and so to Moses, Ex. 34:5; Num. 11:25. He took possession of the tabernacle in a cloud, and afterwards of the temple; where Christ was in his glory, the temple was, and there God showed himself present. We know not the balancing of the clouds, but we know that much of the intercourse and communication between heaven and earth is maintained by them. By the clouds vapors ascend, and rains descend; therefore God is said to make the clouds his chariots; so he did here when he descended upon this mount.
- (2.)** It was a bright cloud. Under the law it was commonly a thick and dark cloud that God made the token of his presence; he came down upon mount Sinai in a thick cloud (Ex. 19:16), and said he would dwell in thick darkness; see 1 Ki. 8:12. But we are now come, not to the mount that was covered with thick blackness and darkness (Heb. 12:18), but to the mount that is crowned with a bright cloud. Both the Old-Testament and the New-Testament dispensation had tokens of

God's presence; but that was a dispensation of darkness, and terror, and bondage, this of light, love, and liberty.

- (3.) It overshadowed them. This cloud was intended to break the force of that great light which otherwise would have overcome the disciples, and have been intolerable; it was like the veil which Moses put upon his face when it shone. God, in manifesting himself to his people, considers their frame. This cloud was to their eyes as parables to their understandings, to convey spiritual things by things sensible, as they were able to bear them.
- (4.) There came a voice out of the cloud, and it was the voice of God, who now, as of old, spoke in the cloudy pillar, Ps. 99:7. Here was no thunder, or lightning, or voice of a trumpet, as there was when the law was given by Moses, but only a voice, a still small voice, and that not ushered in with a strong wind, or an earthquake, or fire, as when God spoke to Elias, 1 Ki. 19:11, 12. Moses then and Elias were witnesses, that in these last days God hath spoken to us by his Son, in another way than he spoke formerly to them. This voice came from the excellent glory (2 Pt. 1:17), the glory which excelleth, in comparison of which the former had no glory; though the excellent glory was clouded, yet thence came a voice, for faith comes by hearing.² What this testimony from heaven was; This is my beloved Son, hear ye him. Here we have, The great gospel mystery revealed; This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. This was the very same that was spoken from heaven at his baptism (ch. 3:17); and it was the best news that ever came from heaven to earth since man sinned. It is to the same purport with that great doctrine (2 Co. 5:19), That God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself."

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Isaiah 42

The Servant of the Lord

¹ "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations.

Matthew 3:17 (New International Version)

¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Mark 1:11 (New International Version)

¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 3:22 (New International Version)

²²and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Acts 3:22 (New International Version)

²²For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you.

"Peter speaks of this as the power and coming of our Lord Jesus (2 Pt. 1:16); because it was an emanation of his power, and a previous notice of his coming, which was fitly introduced by such prefaces."

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Peter 1:16-18 (New International Version)

¹⁶We 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. ¹⁷For 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."^[a] ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

Matthew 17:6 (New International Version)

⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.

Matthew 10:1 (New International Version)

¹He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matthew 26:56 (New International Version)

⁵⁶But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Mark 3:7 (New International Version)

⁷Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed.

Mark 16:20 (New International Version)

²⁰Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

Luke 6:13 (New International Version)

¹³When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:

John 12:16 (New International Version)

¹⁶At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.

Matthew 17:7 (New International Version)

⁷But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid."

*****Note, Though a fear of reverence in our converse with Heaven is pleasing to Christ, yet a fear of amazement is not so, but must be striven against. Christ said, Arise.**

*****Note, It is Christ by his word, and the power of his grace going along with it, that raises up good men from their dejections, and silences their fears; and none but Christ can do it; Arise, be not afraid.**

*****Note, causeless fears would soon vanish, if we would not yield to them, and lie down under them, but get up, and do what we can against them. considering what they had seen and heard, they had more reason to rejoice than to fear, and yet, it seems, they needed this caution.**

*****Note, Christ's errand into the world was to give comfort to good people, that, being delivered out of the hands of their enemies, they might serve God without fear, Lu. 1:74, 75."**

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Daniel 8:18 (New International Version)

¹⁸ While he was speaking to me, I was in a deep sleep, with my face to the ground. Then he touched me and raised me to my feet.

Daniel 9:21 (New International Version)

²¹ while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice.

Daniel 10:10 (New International Version)

¹⁰ A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.

Matthew 14:27 (New International Version)

²⁷But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

Matthew 17:8 (New International Version)

⁸When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

*****Note, Christ will tarry with us when Moses and Elijah are gone.**

The prophets do not live forever (Zec. 1:5), and we see the period of our ministers' conversation; but Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever, Heb. 13:7-8."

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Zechariah 1:5 (King James Version)

⁵Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live for ever?

Hebrews 13:7-8 (King James Version)

⁷Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. ⁸Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Matthew 17:9 (New International Version)

⁹As 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."

"It is good to be here; even there we have no continuing city. Blessed be God, there is a mountain of glory and joy before us, whence we shall never come down.

*****Note, When we return to the world again after an ordinance, it must be our care to take Christ with us, and then it may be our comfort that he is with us.**

*****Note, When we are returning from holy ordinance, it is good to entertain ourselves and one another with discourse suitable to the work we have been about."**

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Mark 9:9-13 (New International Version)

⁹As 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. ¹⁰They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what "rising from the dead" meant. ¹¹And they asked him, "Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?" ¹²Jesus 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? ¹³But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him."

Matthew 17:10 (New International Version)

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

"Note, When the disciples could not reconcile what Christ said with what they had heard out of the Old Testament, they desired him to explain it to them.

*****Note, When we are puzzled with scripture difficulties, we must apply ourselves to Christ by prayer for his Spirit to open our understandings and to lead us into all truth.**

The solving of this objection. Ask, and it shall be given, ask instruction, and it shall be given."

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Malachi 4:5 (New International Version)

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

Matthew 11:14 (New International Version)

¹⁴And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come.

Matthew 17:11 (New International Version)

¹¹Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things.

"Christ allows the prediction (v. 11); "Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things; so far you are in the right." Christ did not come to alter or invalidate any thing foretold in the Old Testament.

*****Note, Corrupt and mistaken glosses may be sufficiently rejected and exploded, without diminishing or derogating from the authority or dignity of the sacred text.**

***Note, New-Testament prophecies are true and good, and are to be received and improved, though some hot foolish men may have misinterpreted them and drawn wrong inferences from them."

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Malachi 4:6 (New International Version)

⁶ He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

Luke 1:16-17 (New International Version)

¹⁶Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Matthew 17:12 (New International Version)

¹²But 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."

*****Note, God's promises are often fulfilled, and men perceive it not, but enquire, Where is the promise? when it is already performed.**

Elijah is come, and they knew him not; they knew him not to be the Elijah promised, the forerunner of the Messiah. The scribes busied themselves in criticizing upon the scripture, but understood not by the signs of the times the fulfilling of the scripture. "

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Matthew 14:3 (New International Version)

³Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife,

Matthew 16:21 (New International Version)

²¹From 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.

Matthew 17:13 (New International Version)

¹³Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.