

Jesus Uses their Experience to Clarify about Elijah (vs. 9-13)

- Elijah Has Come—John the Baptist (Matthew 11:14; Malachi 3:1,2; 4:5, 6; Luke 1:16, 17)
- Son of Man will suffer like John did (Matthew 14:1-10)

Majestic Mountaintop Messages for Us:

- **Jesus is eternally glorious!** See John 1:1-14; Philippians 2:4-11; Colossians 1:14-21; Hebrews 1:3-4; Revelation 1:16; 10:1
- **Graciously given experiences must be anchored to God's Word.** Peter later wrote of this encounter:

“For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 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.” We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.” (2 Peter 1:16-18 –NIV)
- **Keep Learning!** Don't rest on a VBS, or summer camp, or even conversion experience. The last verse Peter penned challenges us: “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.” (2 Peter 3:28 –NIV)

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Our Mission is to be and make disciples of Jesus who love God and others to HIS glory.

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WORSHIP, LISTEN TO GOD'S MAJESTIC SON

On-going Growth, after the Mountaintop—from Matthew 17:1-13

Nothing compares to a spiritually intimate, mountaintop experience with the Lord. Remember Moses receiving the Law on Mt. Sinai, and coming down glowing (Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3)? How about when Elijah faced down the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18)? It was on a hilltop that the risen Jesus ascended into heaven (Acts 1). Perhaps you have had an encounter, an experience that was not just chilling, but life-changing.

Matthew 17:1-13 tells of a glorious mountaintop experience of and with Jesus. It not only included His “inner three” guys—Peter, James, and John—but also long-dead Moses and Elijah. Do not forget God the Father's glorious presence and vocal affirmation of Jesus.

After the smoke clears from this awesome story, there is much Jesus's disciples can learn, because a blessed experience alone is deficient. First, let's see the passage and the players involved, as well as the context that leads us up this high, holy hill. Then, let's allow God's majestic Messiah to speak to us.

Before we head up the hill . . .

Jesus has just revealed His:

- Identity: God's Sent One, His Son (Matthew 16:16-28)
- Mission: Building His Unconquerable Kingdom People
- Path Forward: Shame and Death before Exaltation
- Glory to be Revealed: Ultimately (vs. 27), and Soon (vs. 28)

Matthew 16:27 “For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. 28 Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

17:1 And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. 3 And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4 And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” 5 He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” 8 And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

9 And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.” 10 And the disciples asked him, “Then why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?” 11 He answered, “Elijah does come, and he will restore all things. 12 But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands.” 13 Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.” (**Matthew 16:27 17:13 –ESV**; cf. Mark 9:1-8; Luke 9:28-36)

- Jesus told Disciples He was headed to suffer, die, be raised (16:21-23)
- He called them to follow, wherever He led (16:24-26)
- Days later, He led His Three Key Guys into His Mountaintop Majesty (17:1-7)
- Coming back down (physically, spiritually?), He teaches them (17:8-13)

Worship, Listen to God’s Majestic Son

Jesus Unveils, Reminds us of His Glory! (vs. 1, 2)

- **He changed in form**, but not in nature. He is transfigured, changed in appearance, a metamorphosis, μεταμορφόω (cf. Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 3:21)

Godly, Heavenly Visitors Comfort, Prepare Him (vs. 3)

- Moses, the Lawgiver
- Elijah, the Prophet. Promised forerunner, preparing the way for the Messiah (cf. Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1, 2; 4:5; Luke 1:17)
- Jesus kept, fulfilled the Law and Prophecies

Ignorant Worship Must be Squelched (vs. 4-7)

- Peter’s hasty offer equates the three (cf. Luke 9:33). “I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other . . .” (Isaiah 42:8; cf. Exodus 20:1-7).
- Experience and emotion are a poisonous substitute for truth–worship in spirit AND truth (John 4). Ignorance is NOT bliss.
- “Desire without knowledge is not good–how much more will hasty feet miss the way!” (Proverbs 19:2)
- “Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him.” (Proverbs 29:20–cf. Proverbs 21:5; 28:20; Ecclesiastes 5:1-5; James 1:19-22)

God Again Confirms, Affirms His Son: (vs. 5-8)

- The Holy, Glorious God of the Clouds (cf. Exodus 23:15-18; 40:34,35; 1 Kings 8:10-12; Ezekiel 1:28; 1 Timothy 6:15-16)
- The Father Identifies, Affirms His Son (cf. Matthew 3:17; 12:18; 2 Peter 1:17; Psalm 2:7; Isaiah 42:1; Ephesians 1:6; Colossians 1:13; 1 John 5:9; Revelation 14:14)
- Listen to Jesus! Deuteronomy 18:15,19; Acts 3:22,23; 7:37
- Awe-filled fear is met with a tender touch, and renewed focus on Jesus!