

## **The Transfiguration Sunday, March 28, 2021**

“Jesus introduces this new Kingdom He has been preaching!”

- \* This is one of the final events before Jesus enters Jerusalem!
- \* Jesus leaves Ceasarea Phillipi where He asked the disciples, “Who do people say I am?”
- \* Peter explains that others have all kinds of answers but that he believes He “is The Christ. The Son of the Living God!”
- \* They travel on to Bethsaida where Jesus heals a blind man!
- \* Jesus then predicts His death and explains the cross He will bear.
- \* On this journey before they get to Jerusalem, they come to Mt. Tabor. This is the Mount of Transfiguration.

Mark 9:1-9 (NLT)

1 Jesus went on to say, “I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Kingdom of God arrive in great power!”  
2 Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. As the men watched, Jesus’ appearance was transformed, 3 and his clothes became dazzling white, far whiter than any earthly bleach could ever make them. 4 Then Elijah and Moses appeared and began talking with Jesus. 5 Peter exclaimed, “Rabbi, it’s wonderful for us to be here! Let’s make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” 6 He said this because he didn’t really know what else to say, for they were all terrified. 7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my dearly loved Son. Listen to him.” 8 Suddenly, when they looked around, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus with them. 9 As they went back down the mountain, he told them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

- I. The event on Mt. Tabor, The Transfiguration, was a glimpse of the coming Kingdom of God!

A. Jesus explains this to us very clearly if we only pay attention and listen to His explanation!

1. Most readings about the Transfiguration begins in verse two.

2 “Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. As the men watched, Jesus ’appearance was transformed.”

2. But that is NOT where the story begins! Why do we leave out or skip over verse one?

1 “Jesus went on to say, “I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Kingdom of God arrive in great power!”

3. Jesus said, “Some of you standing right here will see the Kingdom coming in power!”

B. THEN Jesus took Peter, James and John up to Mt. Tabor where He showed them The Kingdom of Power!

II. The Glory of God comes, and they experience The Kingdom of God come in power.

A. Notice who appeared with Jesus on Mt. Tabor!  
Moses and Elijah!

Matthew 5:17 (NLT)

17 “Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.”

1. Moses, representing the Law and Elijah, representing the Prophets appear with Jesus!

2. Then we read and apply what we have just read!

3. Jesus said, "I came to fulfill it all!"

Hebrews 1:1-3 (NLT)

1 Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. 2 And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. 3 The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.

B. Notice Peter's words in response to seeing this awesome event!!! (verse 5)

5 "Peter exclaimed, "Rabbi, it's wonderful for us to be here! Let's make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

1. In other words, it would appear that Peter, being influenced by his tradition, place Moses and Elijah on the same level as Jesus!
2. Peter is treating Jesus as another Prophet! Another representative of God! Another voice explaining things!

7 "Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my dearly loved Son. Listen to him." 8 Suddenly, when they looked around, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus with them."

3. This is why I believe we need to realize how important The Transfiguration really is to our faith!
  4. It's NOT just a cool event in the life of Jesus, its literally a glimpse into this New Kingdom of Power!
- III. The Transfiguration is a Revelation of Jesus' Deity! It was a revealing of Who He is!

A. Jesus is God! God was manifested in the life of Christ!

1. If you want to understand God, look at the Son!

John 14:8-9 (NLT)

8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” 9 Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?”

2. Do you really believe that?
3. Or do you just believe that Jesus was a nicer version of God with a better attitude?
4. If you are ever tempted to see The Father as anything other than just like Jesus...don't!
5. We read from Hebrews that Jesus exactly represents God the Father!

- B. This world is damaged and fallen! The event on Mt. Tabor shows us the wonderful encouragement of the renewal and power of change within this new Kingdom of God!

Acts 3:17-21 (NLT)

17 “Friends, I realize that what you and your leaders did to Jesus was done in ignorance. 18 But God was fulfilling what all the prophets had foretold about the Messiah—that he must suffer these things. 19 Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. 20 Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. 21 For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets.

1. Do you realize what Peter just said?
2. Restoration of all things! “The Kingdom of God coming in power!” This is the actual work of Christ... not just a ticket to heaven!

3. Jesus can, was given authority in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18) and provided for the sin, corruption and brokenness of the world!!

C. This is the reason Paul could make such an outrageous statement in the Letter to the Roman Church!

Romans 8:18-25 (NLT)

18 Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. 19 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. 20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. 22 For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. 24 We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. 25 But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)

1. We may be "groaning" now, we may be dealing with struggles now...but The Transfiguration shows us what we are a part of! A Kingdom of Power!
  2. We have received "the first fruits" of our redemption!
  3. We have The Holy Spirit "as a down payment" of this new life!
- D. Let's not buy into the fantasy that we are simply in a "holding pattern" waiting to escape one day!
1. Too many writings on eschatology or end time events are completely false. A fantasy!

2. We concentrate on a huge war in the Middle East in order Jesus to come and snatch us away!
3. We spend energies trying to figure out who this “Anti-Christ” person is so we can muster up courage to refuse his influence!
4. We expend more energy trying to figure out a supposed “one world order” than we do trying to BE LIKE CHRIST!
5. Let’s not be distracted by this nonsense and determine to conform to this New Kingdom that has come in power!

2 Peter 1:3-7 (NLT)

3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. 4 And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires. 5 In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God’s promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.

**THIS IS WHAT BEING A CHRISTIAN REALLY IS!**