

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 11/1-2/2021 *Matthew Chapter 17*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies - www.ptwente.com

OPENING PRAYER

Matthew Chapter 16:28-17:27

Jesus Transfigured on the Mount – (vs. 16:28-17:13); A Boy is Healed – (vs. 14-21); Jesus Again Predicts His Death and Resurrection – (vs. 21-23); Peter and His Master Pay Their Taxes – (vs. 24-27)

Mat 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Mat 15:28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Mat 16:8 But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread?"

Mat 17:17 Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me."

*Mat 17:20 So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, **if you have faith as a mustard seed**, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.*

Jesus Transfigured on the Mount

• The seventeenth chapter begins with verse twenty-eight of chapter sixteen, where Jesus declared, ***Mat 16:28 Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.***"

- **This is an interesting passage of scripture that has created a lot of difficulty** because a surface reading of it would seem to indicate that Jesus would come again in the glory of the Father to establish the kingdom before all of the disciples died. In other words, there would be an immediate return of Jesus.
- **A certain confusion has been created as the result of the distinguishing of chapters and verses.** This was done to help a person reference a passage of scripture. They went through and gave chapters and verses so that when you want to recall a particular passage of scripture or look it up, it is easy to reference the passage.
- **In Mark's gospel in the marking of the chapters and verses**, Mark records this statement of Jesus, in Mark's gospel chapter nine verse one. In verse two, he goes on to speak about how Jesus then took three of the disciples, Peter, James, and John, up into a high mountain and was there transfigured before them.

Mat 17:1 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; (Luk 9:28b) He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

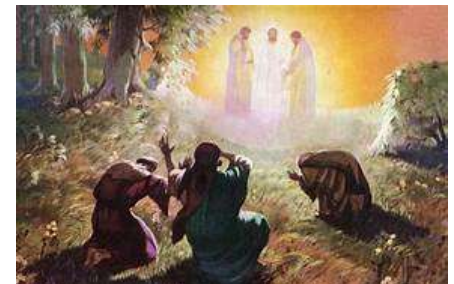
Mat 17:2 and He was transfigured (metamorphoō, change from inside out), before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. (Mar 9:2b) He was transfigured before them. (Rom 12:2a) And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.. (2Co 3:18) But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. (Mat 28:3) His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. (Rev 1:16b) His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

- **He took them up into a high mountain apart, they had been in the area of Caesarea, Philippi.** Caesarea, Philippi is right at the base of Mount Herman, which at over 9,000 feet, is the highest mountain in that whole area. There is a traditional site for the Mount of Transfiguration, which is Mount Tabor, right in the middle of the country, but that is more traditional than factual. Every indication would point to Mount Herman as the place for the transfiguration. But again, the place is not that important, not as the fact is that Jesus was transfigured before them. They saw this transformation! They saw Him as His face began to glow like the sun! As you read the description of this transfiguration of Jesus, you are immediately reminded of the vision that Daniel had of the Lord in His glory! Also, that John had in chapter one of the book of Revelation, when he also saw Jesus in His glorified body, the glory of the kingdom. He was transfigured! His face that shone as the sun! His garments became white as the light, glistening from His garments. We note their response was each to fall on his face, in deep sleep or as dead!

Mat 17:3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

(Luk 9:29-31) As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. [30] And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, [31] who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease (exodus - death) which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

- **Moses and Elijah appeared, talking with Him.** Now in Luke's gospel, we are told that they were talking with Him of His death in Jerusalem. We are told that Jesus went into the mountain and while He was praying, He was transfigured! Moses and Elijah appeared to Him! They were



talking together of His decease (*exodus* – death, departure). His death that would be accomplished in Jerusalem.

- **We note that the Messiah was talking, not arguing or disagreeing, with Moses (the “law) and Elijah (the prophets)!”** They were very familiar with Him. Moses, especially had written of Him, declaring there shall arise a prophet like unto myself. To Him shall you give heed. Moses stands for the law. His name is just associated with the law. Elijah being the representative for the prophets. Although the scribes Pharisee and the Sadducees were always looking for contradictions between Jesus and the law and prophets. We see there are none here in the heavenly realm.

Mat 17:4 Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

(Luk 9:32) But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him.

- **Say nothing, when you do not have anything to say!** In the Luke account, we see the three disciples had fallen asleep. Notice what Peter, the man of action, says when he awakes! We are told that he did not really know what to say. It is always a good practice when you do not know what to say is to keep quiet! Say nothing! Often, we find them thinking, I should say something. So, he is saying, Let us build the three tabernacles! It is good to be here. There are those experiences that we have with the Lord that are good. We like to linger in that place. When there has been a special moving of God, when there has been a manifestation of God’s presence and God’s love among His people, on those special occasions. When we have seen the Spirit of God just move over the congregation, and over our hearts! There is a reluctance, a hesitancy to leave. It is just good to be here! Lord let us just remain here. I like this. I like this peace, this serenity, this manifestation of Your power, of Your glory! Lord, let us just stay here!
- **We would like to stay on the mountaintop, if possible.** We like to stay in that state of spiritual ecstasy where we feel so close to the Lord. But there is a world out there that needs to be touched with His love!
- **But the Lord has opportunities for each of us to make a difference to the dark and dying world by being a good steward of the gospel!** I am always, in my mind, seeking to escape from this corrupt world. I feel like I do not belong here. I am a stranger to what is going on! I like to escape. But God did not call us to go to cloistered, protected areas! He called us to live in this corrupt world that is dominated by evil. Although mountaintop experiences are wonderful, it is necessary that we come down into the world to face the powers of darkness that have the world in its grip. Peter wanted to build three tabernacles, stay right there. One for Moses, one for Elijah, one for Jesus.
- **In wanting to build three tabernacles, Peter errs in the inference that Jesus is on the same level as Moses and Elijah!** We know that Jesus has no equal! Many believe that one of the main reasons The Father interrupts, is to correct that error as He will proclaim in the next verse!

Mat 17:5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" (Luk 9:34-35) While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. [35] And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" (Joh 12:28) Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."

- ***A bright cloud overshadowed them*** - This cloud, which is said to be a *bright* one, was a symbol of the divine presence, and a token of the love, grace, and favor of God, expressive of the brightness and clearness of the Gospel dispensation, in distinction from the obscurity of the legal one, which was signified by the thick, dark, and black cloud that God descended in on Mount Sinai, when He gave the law.
- ***This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"*** Suddenly, the Father's voice proclaims the glory of the Person of His Son, His relation to Himself, that He is the object of His entire affection! In whom is all His delight! It is He whom the disciples are to hear. Moses and Elias have disappeared. Christ is there alone, as the One to be glorified, the One to teach those who hear the Father's voice. The Father Himself distinguishes Him, presenting Him to the notice of the disciples, not as being worthy of their love, but as the object of His own delight. In Jesus, Our Father was Himself well pleased! Thus the Father's affections are presented as ruling ours. He sets before us one common object! What a position for poor creatures like us! What grace!

- **This is the second time that God audibly spoke from heaven acknowledging and confirming that Jesus was indeed the Son of God.** When Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan river, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descended and lighted upon Him, the voice of God spoke from heaven, saying, (*Mat 3:17*) *And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* Here again, God acknowledging *this is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.* Notice that in both cases there was an obedience of the Son to the will of the Father, as well as the subject of death.
- **He is talking with Moses and Elijah concerning His death in Jerusalem.** His submitting again to the will of the Father and in giving His life as a ransom for sin. As they are talking about this death, again, the Father said, "*This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.*" But in this point, He adds, "**Hear Him!**"
- **God spoke to man through the law. God then spoke to man through the prophets.** Moses was the medium that brought to man the law of God. They heard Moses. After Moses and the law was given, then God sent the prophets to encourage the people to obedience to the law. They heard Moses. They heard the prophets, but now God is speaking more clearly than ever before, in and through His Son. God is saying, "**Hear Him!**" It is not just the law anymore, not just the prophets, but *hear Him!* Thus, as we are told in (*Heb 1:1-2*) *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, [2] has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.*
- **Listen to Jesus if you want to know the truth of God!** If you want to know what God is really like, listen to Jesus! He is God's final revelation of Himself to man. From the beginning, God was revealing Himself in progressive revelation. But the final revelation is in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, is **Hear Him!**

Mat 17:6 *And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. (Rev 1:17) And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.*

Mat 17:7 *But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid."*

Mat 17:8 *When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.*

- **Peter, James and John were chosen to witness the transfiguration.** As Jesus had promised, there were some of them there who would not taste of death until they had seen the Son of Man coming in His kingdom. He chose three of them, Peter, James, and John, for a special honor of witnessing the transfiguration. These three went with Jesus into the house of Jairus to bring the daughter of Jairus back to life. When in the garden of Gethsemane, He had set the disciples down with the encouragement to pray and He took Peter, James, and John a little further into the garden with Him and placed them closer to Him. It was these three that were singled out by Jesus for special honor and special occasions.

Mat 17:9 *Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen (*ἐκ νεκρῶν ἀναστῆ* - *anistemi* – to come back to life from the dead) from the dead."*

- **Keep this a secret. Do not tell anybody** what you have just observed until I am risen from the dead. Now Peter when he wrote his second epistle, (*2Pe 1:16-18*) *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. [17] For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." [18] And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.* Peter now is testifying that I was an eyewitness. I heard the voice.
- **Until the Son of Man is risen from the dead;** meaning Himself and His resurrection, when such proof would be given of His mission, authority, and glory, which would make this account easier to be believed! Besides, He had told the Jews, that no heavenly sign, as this voice was, should be given, but the sign of the Prophet Jonah. Jesus was referring to His resurrection, which would be a sure testimony of the truth of His Messiahship.
- **Jesus' promise of being raised from the dead, alone, in three days must have been most shocking to the disciple.** They never seem to hear Him say I am going to rise again. Maybe they were simply thinking, as Martha in (*Joh 11:24b*) *I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.*" It could be that this is what they were thinking when Jesus said I will rise again. They did not have that consciousness, that awareness that in three days, He, alone, would rise again! They did not hear that! So

shocked and so opposite to their concepts of the Messiah, the death, and the suffering that they just could not pick that up.

- **This order of Christ was strictly observed by the disciples** Luke, says, (*Luk 9:36*) *When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen.* It remained concealed among these three. Mark says, (*Mar 9:10*) *So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant.* They were not yet reconciled to the Messiah's dying, which was contrary to their expectation of a temporal kingdom; therefore, they could not tell what to make of His rising again, whether or not this had some secret, mystical meaning. They had no idea of His resurrection from the dead, in a literal sense, though it was foretold in the writings of the Old Testament and had been so affirmed lately by Christ Himself.

Mat 17:10 *And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"*

Mat 17:11 *Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things (to the Jews).*

Mat 17:12 *But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands."*

Mat 17:13 *Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.*

- **Notice, this is future.** Indeed, Elijah shall come first. In other words, there will yet be a coming of Elijah. *Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished.* They understood that Jesus was talking about *John the Baptist.* " Thus, a look at *John the Baptist* in the light of the prophecy of *Elijah* coming first.
- **A mystery.** In (*Mal 4:5-6*) *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. [6] And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.* The promise of the coming of Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord.
- **When they saw Jesus coming in His kingdom there at the transfiguration,** they were a little confused because of this prophecy that Elijah would first come. It was a prophecy that was very familiar to all of them. Now, we have seen You coming in Your kingdom. How is it that the scriptures said that Elijah must first come? *Jesus answered and said to them, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things."*
- **Before the birth of John, the Baptist, his father Zacharias, was ministering in the temple, offering the incense** on the altar, the angel Gabriel appeared. Zacharias was very afraid at the appearance of the angel, who said, "Fear not, for I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God. Your wife, Elizabeth, in her old age, is going to bear a son! (*Luk 1:17*) *He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."* Thus, the angel is declaring to Zacharias concerning the birth of John the Baptist, that he will go in the spirit and the power of Elijah to turn the hearts of the children unto their fathers.
- **When John the Baptist began his ministry, there was a question as to whom he was claiming to be.** He was baptizing down at the Jordan river. Hundreds of people were coming to be baptized and to hear him. The Pharisees came out from Jerusalem to inquire, Who are you? By what authority are you doing these things? They said, Are you the Messiah? He said no. They said, Are you Elijah? He said no. Then who are you? I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness. But he denied being Elijah. Now the angels said he would go in the spirit and in the power of Elijah. When they said, Are you Elijah? He said no! No, in the sense that he is not the complete fulfillment of that prophecy of Malichi. Jesus is here affirming Elijah shall first come. However, He has really, already come but they did not receive him, John the Baptist, but did with him what they would. They put him to death even as they are going to put Jesus to death.
- **Even as Jesus is coming again to establish God's kingdom upon the earth, before He comes again, Elijah will appear.** This Old Testament prophet will appear and will minister to turn the hearts of the people back to God. This is spoken of in (**Rev 11:3,**) *And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." [6] These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.*

- **Who are the two witnesses? No doubt, the two witnesses** that come, will be Elijah and one of the other of the Old Testament saints, very possibly, Moses. Note the context here as they appeared together on the Mount of Transfiguration. They do represent the law and the prophets. Their ministry will be to the Jews during this period of time. What could be more fitting for witnessing to the Jews, than Moses and Elijah?
- **Two comings of Elijah.** Even as there were two comings of Jesus, John the Baptist in the spirit and in the power of Elijah, preceded him to prepare the way of the Lord, to turn the hearts of the people unto God. So, John was put to death. Jesus said, I will be put to death, but he will come again. *Elijah shall come first.* Even as there were the two aspects of the coming of Jesus, so there will be the two aspects of the coming of Elijah preceding Jesus. This is yet to be fulfilled. John the Baptist was not the complete fulfillment and thus the denial, no, I am not Elijah. Yet, Jesus said; yet Jesus said, John was in that, but yet he is going to come first and turn the hearts of the people unto the Father. *Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.*

Jesus Heals a Boy with a Demon

Mat 17:14 And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, (Luk 9:37) Now it happened on the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, that a great multitude met Him.

Mat 17:15 "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. (Mar 9:21) So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. (Luk 9:38) Suddenly a man from the multitude cried out, saying, "Teacher, I implore You, look on my son, for he is my only child."

Mat 17:16 So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him."

- **Bottom of the hill experience!** No sooner did they descend from the mountaintop experience than Satan meets them really at the bottom of the hill. It seems like Satan is waiting at the bottom of every mountaintop experience to attack you and to take away the joy and the blessing that God has bestowed! Those times of great spiritual elation and blessing are also times of danger because that is often the time when Satan comes to attack!
- **When God has done a special work in your heart and life, Satan seeks to destroy it,** to take it away from you. He seems to be waiting at the bottom of every mountain, every mountaintop experience.
- **Thus was the case when Jesus and the three disciples came down. They no sooner get down than this father is coming.** He kneels before Jesus, asking for mercy. His son, possessed by an evil spirit that is seeking to destroy him, is a lunatic. Sometimes, the evil spirit is throwing him into the fire or into the water, trying to drown him. The father said, *I brought him to your disciples, and they could not cure him.*

Mat 17:17 Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me."

(Mar 9:23, 24) Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes. [24] Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

- **Jesus, likely groaning in spirit, not in anger, said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.** How long will Satan reign over the earth? We see the results of men whose hearts are given over to evil. We see in our society the breakdown, the deterioration. We see things that are out of control, we observe the chaos, and we wonder how long can this go on? Many times, groaning in the spirit, we wonder, Lord, just how long before You take control and establish your kingdom. Jesus groaning, saying, *faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I bear with you?*

Mat 17:18 And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

- **The forces of evil, the powers of evil are subject unto our Lord.** Satan has limited power, it is great, but it is limited. He only can do what God has allowed him to do. But God sets the parameters. You remember he was complaining to God concerning Job, that God had set certain parameters. ***(Job 1:9-10a) So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? [10a] Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? God had put a hedge around Job. Satan could not do to him what he was desiring to do because God had***

placed the hedge around him. Satan works only within those limitations that God allows. The powers of darkness are subject unto Jesus Christ and to the authority of Jesus Christ.

- **It is important for us to know that Jesus gave to us the authority over these powers of darkness!** They are still subject to the authority of Jesus, but to the authority of the Name of Jesus when exorcised by the life of a believer. Jesus said that He would give to Peter the keys to the kingdom and whatsoever he would bind on earth will be bound in heaven. He has given us that authority over the powers of darkness. They are still subject unto Jesus.
- **The disciples were unable to deal effectively with this demon that was in this young boy.** It would seem from the scriptures and the teaching of the scriptures that the powers of evil, the demon powers or forces are ranked in various authorities, some of them stronger than others. They are called *principalities and powers* many times. This seems to be the ranking of orders. It is like saying generals and colonels and majors and captains and lieutenants and sergeants and privates. There would be an indication that there are some that are higher in ranking spiritually and are thus more resistant to the authority of the believer.

Mat 17:19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"

- **They had known what it was to cast out demons.** They had been given an authority and power to do that. (*Luk 10:17*) *Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."* But this time, it did not work! Why weren't we able to do that ourselves? *Why could we not cast it out?*
- **Jesus privately said unto them, Why could we not cast it out? Because of your unbelief!** Mark's gospel gives us a little extra insight into this story. When the father said, Help my (only) son. He is a lunatic. He confessed that he was possessed of this devil, who was trying to destroy him, oftentimes throwing him into the fire and into the water. I brought him to your disciples. They could not cure him. Jesus said, *Bring him here to Me.* As they were bringing the young boy to Jesus, this demon threw him on the ground. The boy began to writhe on the ground, lying there as though he were dead. All of the people came running up, what's going on, what's happening? The demon was manifesting his power over the physical aspects of this young boy's life. It was no doubt quite a dramatic spectacle.
- **Probably what happened is that when the disciples went to cast the demon out,** the demon reacted in the physical way, taking the boy, throwing him down, going into these fits, that the disciples were so awed by the power of the demon to control a person's life, that they got their eyes off of the Lord and the greater power that they had in Him. Thus, seeing the power of Satan manifested, it created an awe of Satan's power and an unbelief in the power that they had. So, when they said, Lord, how come we could not do this? Jesus said, *because of your unbelief.*
- **Many times, as we see Satan's power manifested in our world today, that we feel a sense of helplessness.** We feel overwhelmed! We see the greatness of Satan's power, the hold that he has on the media, upon the public education system, upon the legislature, and we think, Oh no! We are so over awed with Satan's power that we forget that "Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world." But we often react in fear, which is the opposite of faith and is a destroyer of faith. So, Jesus said, it is *because of your unbelief!* Then He talks to them concerning the potential of faith,

Mat 17:20 So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

- **Because of your unbelief.** When our faith falls short of its due strength, vigor, and activity, it may be said, "There is *unbelief.*" In the original language faith and belief are the same word. It is because of our unbelief, that we often come short, in that which is good. Jesus uses this occasion to show them the power of faith, that they might not be defective in that, another time, as they were now;
- **Faith as a mustard seed.** That faith to say, Not my will, but Your will be done! I know that You do all things well! Jesus may likely have been referring to both their lack of quantity of faith and the object of their faith. Had the disciples looked to evidence of their faith in trusting their own ability or was it, as it should have been, to that of a great and mighty God?
- **God has given to us that power to move mountains.** Having *faith as a mustard seed*, which is about the smallest seed sown, you can move mountains! Here they could not move the demon out of this young man. They were helpless. It was their lack of faith, unbelief. *Faith as a mustard seed* can move mountains. Whether or not Jesus was talking about physical mountains or spiritual mountains is

a matter of conjecture among the theologians. It is likely, that in reality, faith has the capacity of moving actual mountains.

- **In Luke's gospel, Jesus declares you could uproot a sycamore tree by the roots and transplant it if you had enough faith.** How often do I wonder, how little my faith must indeed be? Realizing that lack of faith. If I just had faith as a mustard seed, I could move mountains. My prayer is, God, help me, increase my faith in You, Lord!
- **Faith is not really something that you can conjure up.** It comes really as a gift from God. You cannot just sit there and say, I am going to have greater faith! I am going to have more faith! I am going to really trust this time! I am not going to fail it! I am really going to do it this time. No, you cannot psyche yourself into it. Too often, we try to do that. *(Rom 10:17) So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
- **It is wonderful, it is glorious how that in that hour of real trial, of real need, so often God comes in with supernatural faith in our heart, giving us that confidence and that assurance that He is working. He is in control. With that faith, there comes such a peace! There comes such a rest. All of that pressure is taken away because it isn't up to me, it's up to Him. I am pressured because I have to do something. But when I realize it is God who is at work, it is God who can do it, then it takes the pressure off of me and I can rest. I do not know what the outcome is going to be. That really does not matter. The outcome will be God's will and that is what does matter!** That God works out His perfect will in every circumstance of my life. I may not like the will of God. My flesh may rebel against what God is doing, but if I have that kind of confidence that it is indeed God working His perfect purpose and plan in my life, then I can yield to it. I can accept it and in so doing, I rest. The real peace and the real rest comes from that complete commitment of ourselves to the Lord!

Mat 17:21 However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." (Dan 10:2, 3, 12) In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. [3] I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled. [12] Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.

- **"This kind"** When He said, this kind, was He referring to the demon, this kind of demon? This powerful demon that had control of this young man. Or possibly, was He referring to the kind of faith that can move mountains? We do not know. But we do know that to have that kind of faith takes prayer and fasting. Faith either to remove the mountains or to remove the powers of darkness. It is important that we begin to spend more time in prayer and in fasting to move some of these mountains and obstacles that Satan is seeking to put in the path.
- **This cure was unusually difficult.** This demonic possession of falling-sickness, which had been going on since birth, *(Mar 9:21) So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood.* "This kind" of demon is not cast out ordinarily, but by great acts of devotion, in which the disciples were lacking. The extraordinary power of Satan must not discourage our faith, but cause us to a greater intensity in the acting of it, and more earnestly praying to God for the increase of our faith.
- **Fasting and prayer are proper means for the bringing down of Satan's power against us,** bringing in His divine power to our assistance. Fasting is of use to put an edge upon prayer. It is an evidence and instance of humiliation, which is necessary in prayer. It a means of putting to death some corrupt habits, and of settling the body to serve the soul in prayer. When Satan's interest in the soul is confirmed by the temper and constitution of the body, fasting must be joined with prayer, to keep the body under control.

Jesus Again Foretells Death, Resurrection

Mat 17:22 Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men,

Mat 17:23 and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised (egeiro – to enter into or to be in a state of life as a result of being raised) up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

- **Jesus again affirms to them. Now they have seen His glorified body and transfiguration,** but He again affirms to them the fact that He is going to be betrayed! He will be killed, but the third day He will rise again. Clearly the rising again was at a specific moment, "the third day." This is proof enough that the Bible intends us to see the Lord's rising again as bodily resurrection and not some spiritual reincarnation over a period of time.

- **Exceedingly sorrowful.** Apparently, when they heard Jesus say, they're going to kill Me, their brains shut off. They never seem to hear Him say I am going to rise again. Maybe they were simply thinking, as Martha in *(Joh 11:24b)* I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." It could be that this is what they were thinking when Jesus said I will rise again. They did not have that consciousness, that awareness that in three days, He, alone, would rise again. They did not hear that. So shocked and so opposite to their concepts of the Messiah, the death, and the suffering that they just could not pick that up. It was not until after He rose from the dead, that they began to remember. Oh yes, He did say, remember! But He is on His way now to Jerusalem. We are not far away from the crucifixion at this point. He is moving towards it. He is trying to prepare them for it.

The Temple Tax

Mat 17:24 When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, "Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?"

- ***When they had come to Capernaum....Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?*** Every adult Jewish male over twenty years of age had to pay a half-shekel tax for the temple a year. It was to maintain the temple. It was a required kind of an offering. It was looked upon as a temple tax of a half shekel. They came to Peter, saying to Him, Does your master pay His temple tax?

Mat 17:25 He said, "Yes." And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?"

- **The kings who sought to conquer over other nations** would always put the other nations to tribute. They would lay heavy taxes upon them. If a king could conquer over other nations, his own nation could be relieved of the tax burden. They would tax the foreigners. Those within the kingdom would be freed from taxation. Jesus is asking Peter about this custom. Do they collect taxes of strangers or of their own people?

Mat 17:26 Peter said to Him, "From strangers." Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free.

- **It was the taxes for His Father's house.** Jesus was the Son. He was not really obligated to pay taxes as the Son of God, collecting taxes for My Father's house. Then are the sons free. The sons do not have to pay the taxes. They collect them from strangers.

Mat 17:27 Nevertheless, lest we offend (scandalizo – to stumble, trip up) them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money (stater – the exact temple tax for two); take that and give it to them for Me and you."

- **Nevertheless, Jesus said, lest we stumble the people, we will pay the temple tax. Go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first....You will find a piece of money in its mouth.** It had a shekel in its mouth, not just a half-shekel. Jesus said, Take care of yourself too, Peter. Pay both of our taxes. Find a shekel in the fish's mouth. Notice that Jesus did that which is not really required of Him to do, in order not to stumble them.
- **We are to be careful in not stumbling others.** As a child of God, I need to be careful about stumbling people. As believers, we can abide under the law of liberty. However, we also are to live under the law of love and walking in love. Paul said, *(1Co 8:9)* But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.
- **The law of love is to always take priority over the law of liberty!** If my liberty is going to destroy someone, who is weak in the faith, then I will not exercise that liberty, lest I be a stumbling block to them. That is the law of love and walking in love.
- **In the law of love, I live really a stricter life** than even my own conscience. There may be things that I could do and not really feel that I am hurting or harming myself or my relationship with the Lord. But there may be others who have convictions or compunctions against doing those things. I am not to flaunt my liberty in Christ before them. I am not to just go out and to do those things and lay before them a stumbling block.
- **Paul was careful about this, and Jesus was careful.** We do not want to offend others! We need to walk carefully, walking in love and not doing things that would bring a weaker brother a real problem and an offense to him. Jesus was concerned about that, and we should be also. How often is that my concern?

Summary

- **JESUS' TRANSFIGURATION: The glory that is coming is preceded by death!** In Jesus' transfiguration, a wonderful glimpse of our Savior's coming glory was given to the disciples. As He is preparing His disciples, they are told twice in this chapter of His coming death, which is unbelievably sorrowful. But that on the third day He, alone, will along rise from death, victorious over it, to live eternally.
- **Do we clearly see what our blessed Savior had done for us?** He has paid the price of all our sin! He has redeemed us forever! Yes, to be transformed into glory, we must die in these bodies. But what victory awaits. Oh, what glorious things are ahead for every believer! **Is my life truly reflecting that living hope? Oh, His amazing grace!**

"WHY COULD WE NOT CAST IT OUT?"

- **Faithless and perverse generation! Because of your unbelief!** (*Mar 9:23, 24*) *Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes. [24] Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"* **Nothing impossible if only we have the faith in God, the size of a mustard seed! This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting!**

JESUS AGAIN PREDICTS HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION:

- **Consider how the sorrow of death is transcended by His victorious resurrection and ascension into heaven forever! Such is the promise of every believer!**

PETER AND HIS MASTER PAY THEIR TAXES - "LEST WE OFFEND THEM"

- **The law of love is to always take priority over the law of liberty! In the law of love, I live really a stricter life than even my own conscience. Paul was careful about offending others. Jesus was careful about this. How often is that my concern?**

Oh, His amazing grace!

Closing Song:

THIS IS AMAZING GRACE Phil Wickham (4:35)

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness? Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?

The King of glory, the King above all kings Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder?

And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder? The King of glory, the King above all kings

This is amazing grace This is unfailing love That You would take my place That You would bear my cross You laid down Your life That I would be set free Oh, Jesus, I sing for All that You've done for me Who brings our chaos back into order? Who makes the orphans a son and daughter?

The King of glory, the King of glory Who rules the nations with truth and justice

Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance The King of glory, the King above all kings

This is amazing grace This is unfailing love That You would take my place That You would bear my cross You laid down Your life That I would be set free Oh, Jesus, I sing for All that You've done for me

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain Worthy is the King who conquered the grave (3X)

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain Worthy, worthy, worthy

This is amazing grace This is unfailing love That You would take my place That You would bear my cross You laid down Your life That I would be set free Oh, Jesus, I sing for All that You've done for me All that You've done for me

Closing Prayer:

Assignment for next week: Read *Matthew Chapter 18*