

Matthew 17

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!”

Matthew 17:5 (NKJV)

Matthew 17 Outline:

The Transfiguration - Read Matthew 17:1-13

Instruction About Faith - Read Matthew 17:13-21

Instruction About Jesus’ Death - Read Matthew 17:22-23

Instruction About Taxes - Read Matthew 17:24-27

The Transfiguration - Read Matthew 17:1-13

Matthew 17:1-13 (NKJV)

1 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves;

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

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

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.”

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!”

6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.

7 But Jesus came and touched them and said, “**Arise, and do not be afraid.**”

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

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 from the dead.**”

10 And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”

11 Jesus answered and said to them, “**Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.**

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.”

13 Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.

1. The transfiguration is a fulfillment of Matthew 16:28. What did Jesus say the “some standing here,” would see? (See Matthew 16:28)

2. The transfiguration prefigures the kingdom reign of Jesus Christ, when we will see Him in all of His glory and will also be transfigured to be like Him just as Moses and Elijah were like Him. What will our glorified bodies be like? (See Philippians 3:20-21, 1 Corinthians 15:49, Romans 8:29-30, 2 Corinthians 3:18)

3. We too will one day be transfigured to be like Him, until that day what should we be doing? (See 1 John 3:2-3)

4. Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus to Peter, James and John. What are Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus about (v. 3)? (See Luke 9:30-31)

5. Moses and Elijah appearing at the transfiguration represent the law and the prophets. Although obeying the law and applying the messages of the prophets is important, what does the voice of the Father say we should, “hear” (v. 5)? (See also Deuteronomy 18:15;19, Acts 3:22-23)

6. What comes from “hearing” Jesus? (See Romans 10:17)

7. What else must we do beside “hear” Jesus? (See Matthew 7:24-27, James 1:22-25)

Apologetic Points from the Transfiguration:

- Some cults don’t believe in the Trinity. They try to say that any references to the Trinity are actually references to one god who takes on the characteristics of Father, Son or Holy Spirit and different times in Scripture. The transfiguration proves that the Father and Son are two separate Persons. (As does the baptism of Christ when all three members of the Trinity are manifested.)
- Some cults believe that Christ lost His deity when He became a man. The transfiguration proves this to be false.
- Roman Catholics believe that the appearance of Moses and Elijah at the transfiguration supports their belief that we should pray to the dead (saints).
- The Seventh Day Adventists believe in ‘soul sleep’ when we die. The appearance of Moses and Elijah at the transfiguration disproves this concept.
- Some groups try to say that Matthew 17:12-13 proves reincarnation. They try to say that Jesus is saying that John the Baptist is Elijah reincarnated. “but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands. Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.”

Instruction About Faith - Read Matthew 17:14-21

Matthew 17:14-21 (NKJV)

14 And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying,

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.

16 So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.”

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.”

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

19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”

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.

21 However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

8. People in Eastern cultures believed that the moon shining on one’s face would drive a person crazy. The words the man uses to describe his son, “an epileptic and suffers severely” is the word, lunatic, or moonstruck and literally means “smitten by the moon.” What was his true condition (v. 18)?



9. Why couldn't the disciples cast out the demon from the man's son (v. 20)?

10. Jesus said that having faith as a mustard seed could move mountains, or change the landscape in your life's situation. What did Jesus say would be impossible to you if you have faith (v. 20)?

11. What is faith? (See Hebrews 11:1-2)

12. How are we to live? (See Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:16-17, Galatians 2:16; 3:11, Hebrews 10:38)

13. Jesus said "However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." (v. 21) Why is prayer AND fasting important?

Instruction About Jesus' Death - Read Matthew 17:22-23

Matthew 17:22-23 (NKJV)

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,

23 and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.” And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

14. Why were the disciples were exceedingly sorrowful (v. 23)?

15. Often we too can be exceedingly sorrowful when we know a difficult situation is coming upon us. What else did Jesus tell the disciples that should have been given them hope (v. 23)?

16. What are some reasons the disciples might have rejoiced at Jesus statement that He was going to be betrayed and killed (v. 23)? (See also John 16:7)

17. Often difficult situations are placed in our lives by God (Deuteronomy 8:2, James 1:2-3), and we can be extremely sorrowful because of them. However, we need to try to see beyond our temporary situation. What are some reasons we might rejoice in our extremely sorrowful circumstances? (See Romans 5:3-4, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, James 1:2-2, 1 Peter 4:13,)

Instruction About Taxes - Read Matthew 17:24-27

Matthew 17:24-27 (NKJV)

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?”

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?”

26 Peter said to Him, “From strangers.” Jesus said to him, “Then the sons are free.

27 Nevertheless, lest we offend 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; take that and give it to them for Me and you.”

18. Jesus implies that He is a king and His children are exempt from paying taxes by asking His question to Peter (v. 25). How does a person become a child of King Jesus? (See John 1:12-13)

19. Peter typically would fish using nets. Jesus instructed Peter to go “cast in a hook.” We can assume that Peter obeyed and paid the temple tax for himself and Jesus. Why is it important to obey Jesus’ instruction regardless of “how” he instructs you to perform an action?