

**1) INTRO**

- Last week
  - Peter confesses JC as the Christ, the Son of the Living God
  - JC begins to tell his disciples of his death and resurrection
    - And, rebukes Peter when Peter says, “no way”
  - JC told disciples (and us) to deny ourselves and follow him
  - Don’t wanna gain whole world & lose our souls
  - JC spoke of the promise of eternity (no death) in him

**2) vv1-8 – UP ON THE MOUNTAIN**

- Then six days later JC takes Peter, James, and John up the mtn
  - This event to sustain disciples for JC’s upcoming suffering
- B/c on the mtn, JC is transfigured before them
  - We don’t use the word “transfigured” in everyday language
  - Better picture is to think of Butterfly World (cocoons)
    - GRK word here is metamorphothe...metamorphosis
      - Like amazing transformation of caterpillar into butterfly...but even more amazing
  - Sproul – of all the events of Jesus’ life before his death & resurr, he would have move loved to be there & see his transfiguration...been able to sing hymns of praise while the lions were waiting to devour him in the Coliseum
    - JC’s appearance changed from the human to divine
    - They saw JC in his God-ness
    - 1<sup>st</sup> thing noticed was his faced changed; was like sun
      - Bible & sun metaphor to describe very bright
      - Intense brightness from Jesus’ face
        - solar eclipse last August – eyes/intense
      - face shone like sun, clothes white as light
    - They’re seeing God here
- Moses & Elijah
  - Key figures from Law & Prophets; Messianic forerunners
- Three tents/tabernacles...maybe b/c...
  - To prolong this mtn top experience
  - Or, to make a memorial fitting to their importance

- Or, Peter’s babbling w/ no clear idea what he’s saying
- But, while he’s speaking, God’s glory appeared and spoke words we’ve heard before in Matt 3:17...w/ “listen to him”
  - Disciples were undone...terrified at the appearing of holy God
    - When God & his glory appear in Bible, this happens
      - Sinful people fall on face before holy God of all
      - As sinners, we know we have nothing of ourselves to offer holy, righteous God
- But, JC doesn’t want to scare them; wants to encourage them so they can face the challenges ahead
  - Fear of God is good...we see this often in Scripture/Proverbs
    - Good to start here so we know our rightful place before our holy, righteous, sin-hating God
    - But, JC comes to remove our fear & give us right standing & right relationship w/ our holy God
      - God is a good God to sinners like us
      - JC came to earth to die for our sins, rise in victory over sin & death so that we no longer have to fear the wrath & condemnation of our holy God
- The disciples look up & its JC, in his humanity, speaking to them
  - As though Moses & Elijah disappear as soon as they appeared

**3) vv9-13 – CONVERSATION COMING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN**

- More hiking conversations often happen coming down the mtn
  - JC uses this as a time to instruct his disciples
- Tells them to keep quiet of this until he rises from dead
  - JC wants the purpose of his ministry to be clear
    - That he came to die for sinners, in our place
    - JC came to redeem/restore us back to God
    - He didn’t want people to think that he came to bring national & military/political freedom
      - He came with the purpose of saving sinners
        - Feel like a sinner? JC saves you
        - Feel unloved or unlovable? JC loves u
        - Feeling broken-hearted? JC heals

- Feel like outcast? JC restores you back to God
- And, the disciples ask about Elijah
  - Perhaps, having just seen Elijah brings to mind Mal 4:5-6
  - And, the implication of their question is that the scribes were saying that since Elijah had not come, then the Messiah had not come either
    - But, the disciples were convinced that JC was the Messiah...remember Peter – “you are the Christ” 16:16
  - JC explains that Elijah has come...JB is the forerunner
    - JB - role of forerunner in his ministry & martyrdom
      - Which point ahead to JC’s own mission
- So, the disciples get it
  - And, they come down from the mtn to a crowd
  - There’s quite the contrast here:
    - From the relative peace on the mtn top to the busy-ness of the crowd
    - But, also of the power & glory of God displayed on the mtn top to the weakness of the remaining 9 disciples

#### 4) vv14-21 – JESUS HEALS

- In the midst of the crowd, a man comes up and asks JC to have mercy on his son who’s an epileptic and falls into fire & water
  - Says his son’s an epileptic – here it’s b/c he’s demon-possessed and the other 9 disciples can’t help him
- And, in v17 Jesus responds & if ever we hear a cry of frustration from JC, its here
  - The context makes it seem like JC is addressing the disciples here and that he’s referring to their weak faith
  - Especially after he just told them that he’s going to die and be raised again...like, “I already told you I’m not going to always be here on this earth”
- So, the powerful God who just appeared in all his glory and majesty and divinity as the God-man up on the mtn rebukes the demon and the boy is healed
- And the 9 disciples ask JC – in private – why they couldn’t do that

- Remember in chap 10 of Matt, JC sent them out to do these kinds of things
  - Less than a yr later, they can’t do what they once did
    - B/c they had a faith problem...they were trusting in their own gifts rather than the object of their gifts – powerful God himself
- Little faith doesn’t have to do with the quantity of their faith, but more so of the poverty of their faith
  - It’s not that they have little faith – b/c a little faith like a grain of mustard seed can move a mtn – it’s that they have poor faith
    - They weren’t surrender to God’s will
    - And, they weren’t focusing on the source & object of all genuine faith – God
- Faith means to stay focused on Jesus...to look to him, depend on him, call out to him, keep our eyes on him
  - It’s a battle...but, it’s a battle worth fighting
  - We are distracted people, but let’s fight to stay focused on JC
- To stay focused on JC and to listen to him (v5)...he says “I am the way, truth, and life”
  - When you walked in here this morning and saw these chairs to sit on, did you stand in front of that chair you’re in just wondering if it would hold you up? Did you study that chair? Evaluate it? Or wonder about its strength? Or, did you just plop down on it? You exercised faith and just sat down. Your faith in that chair to hold you up was not based on a feeling about the chair, but rather in confident trust in the truth that the chair will hold you up. Faith is believing and then acting like God is telling the truth.
    - Listen to him when he says that eternal life is ours when we submit to him as our Lord and Savior
- “Move mountains” phrase – was a common figure of speech for doing what seemed impossible
  - Like “when pigs fly” or “not in a million years”
  - When we have faith in JC, the impossible will happen – dead people will live forever...when we die on this earth, we’ll live forever w/ JC