

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

# EPISODE 18: MAKE IT MAKE SENSE

## THE TRANSFIGURATION

### CONTEXT

In this episode, we're going to put into practice some of the tools that we looked in our last episode. We'll turn to the Transfiguration account in Matthew and 17 and guide you through the process of asking questions of the text and let you know where you can go to find answers to those questions.

### DIVING INTO MATTHEW 17

*i. Questions you could have asked of the text*

- a) Are there any other accounts that mention the transfiguration? What do they add to Matthew's version?
  - 1) The synoptic gospels and Q (German for quelle) (not Q-Anon ;).
  - 2) Luke: "About eight days after these sayings..." (Luke 9:28)
  - 3) Luke: "...who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure" (Luke 9:30)
  - 4) Matthew

#### **Verse 1**

- i. What does the time stamp mean in verse 1 ("And after six days...")
- ii. Why does he take only these three men? ("took with him Peter and James, and John..")
  - 1) Cross-references: Matthew 26:37; Mark 5:37
  - 2) James (ultimately martyred as church is established -Acts 12:2)
  - 3) John (the disciple whom Jesus loved – John 21:7)-wrote revelation
  - 4) Peter (eyewitnesses...word made more sure because of this experience (2 Peter 1:16-19)
- iii. Why did they go on a "high mountain?"
  - 1) Evokes Moses Mount Sinai experience in Exodus 24.
  - 2) Moses-received commandments; Disciples-get revelation of Christ written on hearts (see Hebrews 8:10)
  - 3) Mount Hermon-close to Caesarea Philippi
  - 4) Another high mountain reference in Matthew (Matthew 4:8-10). Offered him the world. Jesus chose a different mountain.

#### Verse 2

- iv. What does the word transfigured mean here?
  - a) Greek-Metamorpho
  - b) same word used in Romans 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 3:17-18)
- v. Why is Jesus' face shiny and his garments white?

- a) Making the Moses connection – Exodus 34:29-35. Moses shined experiencing God’s glory. Jesus shined from his own glory as God in the flesh (Hebrews 1:3-4)
- b) The purity of the angel at resurrection scene Jesus-Matthew 28:1-3

Verse 3

- i. Why Moses and Elijah?
  - a) The law and the prophets. This is the only place in the Bible where Moses and Elijah are explicitly named together.
  - b) Aside from Moses (and Joshua his helper), Elijah is the only other person in all of Israel’s history who went up Mount Sinai (Exodus 19; 1 Kings 19:8-18)
  - c) Both had unusual stories to “end” their lives (Deut. 34:5-7; 2 Kings 2:8-12)
  - d) Jesus’ relationship with the law and prophets (Matthew 5:17)
- ii. What were they talking about?
  - a) Jesus’ departure/exodus (Luke 9:30)

Verse 4

- i. Why does Peter make a suggestion about building three booths?
  - a) Matthew doesn’t throw Peter under bus like others: “if you wish...” (Matthew 17:4b)
  - b) Israel had dwelt in tabernacles in the wilderness while the presence and glory of God was among them.
  - c) The same word is also used for the shelters erected during the Old Testament Feast of Tabernacles (Lev. 23:42).
  - d) Peter confessed, but still had incomplete understanding of Jesus.

Verse 5

- i. What does this bright cloud mean or bring to mind?
  - a) The cloud of glory overshadowed the mountain in Exodus 24:15 and the tabernacle in 40:34.
  - b) Symbolized the presence of God (Exodus 13:21-22; Exodus 14:19).
- ii. What’s significant about this voice from heaven?
  - a) The Israelites are told to listen to the voice of a prophet that God will raise up (Deuteronomy 18:15)
  - b) Combines elements in Psalm 2:7 (“this is my Son”) with Isaiah 42:1 (“with whom I am well pleased”). Son and Suffering Servant.
  - c) God only speaks from heaven in the New Testament about Jesus. No room for doubt here. Listen to him! (Matthew 3:13-17)

Verse 6

- i. Why did they fall on their faces?
  - a) Not taste death? Clement of Alexandria says, yes. (Matthew 16:28; Matthew 28:4)
  - b) Falling on face was act of worship.

Verse 7

- i. Why did Jesus come and touch them?
- ii. Only here and in 28:18 does Jesus “come to” his disciples. Both times glorified.
- iii. Jesus’ touch usually heals in Matthew? Their fear?

Verse 8

- i. Why Jesus alone?