

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

RLJ-1943

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PART 44: MOSES, ELIJAH, AND THE LUNATIC

THE TRANSFIGURATION

Every action that Jesus did on earth had a specific purpose. This was the case when He had an appointment with Moses and Elias.¹ **Matthew 17:1; Mark 9:2-4; Luke 9:28-30**

This was a special event prepared by the Godhead in eternity past. Six days after Jesus had a discussion with the apostles about whom He was, He was told by the Holy Spirit to walk to a certain mountaintop. Here are some interesting points:

1. Jesus took them up to a high mountain. Could this have been Mount Hermon, since Caesarea Philippi was nearby?
2. Moses and Elijah did not come from heaven; they came from Paradise since Jesus had not yet paid for the sins of mankind. **Luke 16:20-22; 23:42-43; Ephesians 4:8-10**
3. They had not yet received their resurrected bodies, and as such, were simply soul/spirit bodies.²
4. It is interesting that Jesus was physically transformed into the spirit world while Peter, John, and James were not, yet these men could see into the spirit world and hear what was being discussed. **Matthew 17:2-3**

Luke stated the discussion between Jesus and Moses and Elijah was about the coming death of His physical body in Jerusalem. These two men had obviously been briefed by the Holy Spirit in Paradise and they in turn were sharing it with Jesus who was still in the flesh. **Luke 9:30-31**

THE PURPOSE

My understanding is that Jesus knew all the details about going to Jerusalem and subsequently dying on the cross. But the Mount of Transfiguration was a sign that they would never forget, and after the resurrection, this event would be shared with future generations of Christians.

It is obvious that Peter, John, and James were clueless as to why Moses and Elijah had showed up. The only thing they could think to do was to prepare three tents so Jesus and the two prophets would have a place to stay. They did not understand this was an event planned in eternity past that would only continue for a short while. **Matthew 17:4; Mark 9:5-6; Luke 9:32-33**

¹ The prophet Elijah is also known as Elias

² The physical body is a replica of the soul/spirit body.



THE FATHER SPOKE

While the apostles spoke in confusion, God the Father spoke to them from a cloud that rolled over the mountaintop, confirming the fact that Jesus was indeed the Son of God.

Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7-8; Luke 9:34-35

Fear gripped Peter, John, and James and they fell on their faces toward the ground. They could not see who was speaking out of the cloud, and since electricity had not yet been discovered, they had no clue about voice amplification. It was beyond their capacity to comprehend a voice in a cloud, high up on a mountain. **Matthew 17:6**

Jesus touched the three men, saying there was no need to fear, but that they shouldn't speak of this matter until after the resurrection. **Matthew 17:7-9; Mark 9:9; Luke 9:36**

THE APOSTLES WERE BEWILDERED

Peter, John, and James were bewildered as they made their way down from the mountaintop. **Matthew 17:10**

The scribes had been quoting Malachi that Elijah must come before the Messiah. Now that it had been established that Jesus was the Messiah, but where was Elias? **Malachi 4:5-6**

Jesus responded that what Malachi had prophesied was true, but he had already come and done his work. That's when the disciples' realized Jesus was referring to John the Baptist. **Matthew 17:11-13**

THE LUNATIC

When Jesus and the three apostles returned to the rest of the group, a huge crowd had gathered waiting for the God-man. **Mark 9:14-15; Luke 9:37**

A man sought healing for his son who was possessed by a demon. The other apostles left behind were unable to cast out the demon. **Matthew 17:14-15; Mark 9:17-18;**

Jesus scolded them for not having the necessary faith and for being spiritually corrupted. The God-man expressed frustration with the apostles and asked how long it was necessary to be with them. **Matthew 17:17; Mark 9:19; Luke 9:41**

The Son of God cast out the demon and the boy was immediately cured and restored to a right mind. **Matthew 17:18**

Mark recorded a longer conversation Jesus had with the boy's father. **Mark 9:20-27**

WHAT IT TAKES

The nine apostles who remained behind must have been embarrassed, and when they were alone with Jesus, they wanted to know why they had not been able to cast out the demon. **Matthew 17:19; Mark 9:28**

Matthew records that Jesus said it was because of their unbelief. This was why they could not take control over the demon. The Son of God emphasized having faith like a mustard seed will allow you to remove mountains, but in this particular case, this type of demon also requires fasting beforehand. **Matthew 17:20-21**

Mark stated this particular demon of insanity can only be removed if the person casting out the demon has fasted and prayed before the confrontation. **Mark 9:29**

CONCLUSION

Most pastors falsely teach the Holy Spirit is no longer on earth because we have the Bible and therefore do not need supernatural power anymore. If this describes you, I can most assuredly state you are never going to cast out demons.

Jesus told the 120 followers not to minister until after the resurrection when they had been baptized in the Holy Spirit. **Acts 1:4-8**

When you encounter a demon possessed person seeking help, it is too late to begin preparing yourself. Fasting should be done on a weekly basis so that you are ready for action when the need arises.

A mustard seed is the smallest of seeds. To get this kind of faith, you have to make up your mind that the Bible is true and disregard any contradictory information regardless of the source (i.e. pastor). The Bible should be the foundation of your faith.

God said it, I believe it, and that settles it for me!

If you harbor unforgiveness or have hidden sins in your life, you will receive no respect in the spirit world. It won't matter how much you fast and proclaim your faith, it simply won't work. **Mark 11:22-26**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?