

2008, 2-3 Get a sneak peak of the Mystery Matt 17v1 (Transfiguration)

What would it be like to be led up the mountain? Peter, James, and John must have been biting their nails to find out what Jesus was going to show them. The whole situation was mysterious. What mountain were they on? What happened?

Jesus was transfigured, but what does that mean? Was he transformed, metamorphosed, or just really, really bright? Jesus then appears with two mysterious figures, Elijah and Moses. Why Elijah and Moses, why not King David or Samuel?

Peter was clearly confused about the event. He thought they should set up shelters and hang out. Then the mysterious clouds envelope them, just like they did for Moses in the Old Testament. What was happening?

God was speaking, then the clouds vanish and there is Jesus. He gives no explanation, only that the disciples keep everything a secret. That must have been frustrating for them with all the secrecy and the strange things the disciples experienced.

Jesus was certainly a mysterious character. No one quite understood who he was. Some thought he was a teacher, some a prophet, and some Elijah himself. Jesus spoke in mysterious parables. Jesus consistently told people to not tell people what he was doing.

Moses was another person who was a little mysterious. He would go up the mountain in the Old Testament and receive the ten commandments. He was glowing because of the presence of God. What exactly happened to Moses up on that mountain?

Elijah has always intrigued me. He was even able to raise the dead in the old testament, but yet at times showed weak faith. Elijah then was swept up into heaven in a fiery chariot. His spirit is somehow transferable onto Elisha and then centuries later to John the Baptist.

Mysteries and intrigue can be fun in movies, but in real life they are usually frustrating. We don't know why. Why? Why? Why? How could something like this happen to me? What is going to happen in the future? Where is my life going?

And many times we are not given the answer. We continue to search and hope that God has the answers waiting for us sometime in the future. When we finally get to heaven, then we can ask God all kinds of questions.

Why did he allow sin into the world? Why was life so frustrating? What was my purpose when I was alive? And what exactly is heaven supposed to be like? God, can you show me around? God, can you answer all my questions?

God will answer all our questions then, but for now we are left with the mystery. Can we trust him up until that point? Can we go along with his plan blindly following his lead for us?

That was probably what the disciples were asking at the time of the transfiguration. But now Jesus gives them a sneak peak at the end results. They are no longer in the dark. It has been revealed to them exactly who Jesus is. The disciples missed Jesus Baptism so now God speaks to them those same words, "This is my son, in whom I am well pleased, Listen to him!"

Peter remembered those words as he quotes them in the Epistle he wrote. He says about his experience, “We were eyewitnesses of his majesty, for he received honor and glory from God the Father. We ourselves heard his voice that came from heaven when we were with him on that sacred mountain.”

Finally a voice from heaven giving them answers. It was like a light shining in a dark place. A glimpse of glory encourages us to look forward to when the day dawns and the morning star rises in our hearts.

And what we must understand is that God has spoken to us a word from heaven also. He has given us his word in the Bible. Peter explains that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophets own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

What he is saying here is that the Bible is in fact, God’s words to us. They are from God, and they are a light to us who are in the dark. What a great encouragement.

Yet you and I know that we still see through a glass dimly. We don’t have all the information we desire to have. What about these two characters Moses and Elijah. What can we find out about them?

Elijah makes some sense that he would be there since his body was taken up into heaven. But what about Moses. Isn’t he dead in the grave? That is what I thought until I read Jude verse nine, one of the most mysterious verses in the Bible that says, “But even when the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare bring an accusation against him, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.”

Here we can conclude that God rose Moses body from the dead, and took it to heaven. Thus Moses and Elijah would make perfect candidates to be with Jesus as we get a glimpse of his resurrection.

But we still don't have all the answers, only the ones we need. We may wonder even about the mystery of Jesus. Why did he suffer on the cross in such a way for us? Why was he forsaken by God. Why did Jesus have to die?

You and I can speculate why it was necessary for him to go through all this, but have been given the answer we need to know. He did it because he loves you. He did it to forgive you. He did it for you.

So he could bring you up into heaven. That seems to be enough information. We can only expound on that, and sometimes nothing more. Given God's Grace, God's glory, and God's Word, we leave this church satisfied.

And it is not a secret anymore, that Jesus rose from the dead. It is public information, impossible to disprove, but only believable through the Holy Spirit. You to are led along by the Holy Spirit like the prophets were, in order that you may share God's word with those who are in darkness.

For us now, we continue to trust. In the words of Jude 21 "Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life." Amen