



Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

*The Transfiguration*

<sup>2</sup> After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. <sup>3</sup> His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

 We can only imagine how dazzling the three of them appeared to the disciples and, if the Transfiguration of our Lord occurred at night, the sight would have been breath-taking, heart-stopping, enthralling, inspiring.

Q1. How did the three disciples identify Elijah and Moses?

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Q2. Who was Elijah? And how did he die?

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**2 Kings 2:11** As they [the great prophet Elijah and his apprentice Elisha] were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

Q3. Who was Moses? And how did he die?

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**Deuteronomy 34:1, 5, 6:** Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the LORD showed him the whole land... <sup>5</sup> And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. <sup>6</sup> He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is.

Q4. Do you think this conversation with Moses and Elijah was important to Jesus?

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Q5. Was this conversation important for the three disciples to experience? Why?

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<sup>5</sup> Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters -- one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup> (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

Q6. What do the “shelters” represent?

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 We can only speculate what Peter and the two brothers were thinking. Perhaps, they thought of the Feast of Tabernacles (or booths or shelters) and suggested to the Lord Jesus that they build shelters for the three of them as a way to honor and protect them.

**Leviticus 23:33-34, 41-43** The Lord said to Moses, <sup>34</sup> "Say to the Israelites: 'On the fifteenth day of the seventh month the Lord's Feast of Tabernacles begins, and it lasts for seven days. . . <sup>41</sup> Celebrate this as a festival to the Lord for seven days each year. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come; celebrate it in the seventh month. <sup>42</sup> Live in booths for seven days: All native-born Israelites are to live in booths <sup>43</sup> so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in booths when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.' "

**Isaiah 4:6** It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain.

Q7. Had you been there, how would you have reacted?

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<sup>7</sup> Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"


Q8. Whose "voice" came from the cloud?

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Q9. Why do you think God chose to say this to Jesus? Did Jesus need to hear it? Or was it more for the three disciples?

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**Day 2**

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<sup>8</sup> Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. <sup>10</sup> They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what "rising from the dead" meant.

Q10. What kind of effect did this event have on Peter and the brothers James and John?

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Q11. What does "rising from the dead" mean to you?


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<sup>11</sup> And they asked him, "Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"

<sup>12</sup> Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected? <sup>13</sup> But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him."

Q12. When Jesus referred to "Elijah", to whom was He referring? (See Matthew 17:13)


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 Through this event, it could be argued that Moses and Elijah represented the Old Covenant with God, while Jesus represents and is the New Covenant. Moses and Elijah appeared and then disappeared. Jesus remains.

 Peter was one of the three disciples who witnessed the Transfiguration. About forty years after the Transfiguration occurred the eyewitness Peter wrote the following about the Transfiguration.

**2 Peter 1:1, 2, 16-18** [This letter was written by] <sup>1</sup> Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, [and the letter is addressed] To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord... <sup>16</sup> We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. <sup>17</sup> For He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup> We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with Him on the sacred mountain.

**Day 3**

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

***The Healing of a Boy with an Evil Spirit***

<sup>14</sup> When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them.

Q13. "When they..." – to whom does "they" refer?

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Q14. Do you think that the "other disciples" were able to effectively argue with the "teachers of the law"?

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Q15. How do you think the "other disciples" felt when they saw Jesus?

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<sup>15</sup> As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

Q16. Were the people happy to see Jesus? Or were they looking for food? Or were they looking for a miracle?

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Q17. If you (or me) saw Jesus, would you run to Him? Why or why not?

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<sup>16</sup> "What are you arguing with them about?" he asked.

<sup>17</sup> A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. <sup>18</sup> Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

<sup>19</sup> "O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

Q18. Jesus sounds exasperated. What emotions do you think Jesus felt?

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<sup>20</sup> So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

Q19. "When the spirit saw Jesus" – why did the spirit act the way it did?

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<sup>21</sup> Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"

Q20. Did Jesus really need to have the boy's father answer this question? Why did Jesus ask it?

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<sup>22</sup> "From childhood," he answered. "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

Q21. The boy's father said, "if you can do anything". Does this say anything about the faith of the boy's father?

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<sup>23</sup> "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."

Q22. Jesus seems to want to hear a declaration of "belief". "Belief" in who or what?

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**Romans 10:8-11** But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: <sup>9</sup> That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. <sup>11</sup> As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

Q23. Why is “belief” important?


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<sup>24</sup> Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

Q24. Do you consider this a prayer?

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**Day 4**

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

<sup>25</sup> When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

<sup>26</sup> The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently, and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." <sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

Q25. How do you think the father felt?

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Q26. Was the father’s faith/belief strengthened?


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<sup>28</sup> After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

<sup>29</sup> He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

Q27. Do you think prayer is important?

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 Mark 9:28-29 is perplexing to us: why couldn’t the disciples drive out the demon? Matthew 17:17-21 is a parallel account of this event. Specifically, Matthew 17:20 provides greater explanation. The Matthew passage indicates that the disciples’ faith was not strong enough and they needed to rely upon the power of the Lord through their prayers.

**Mathew 17:20** [Jesus] replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

**Philippians 4:6-7** Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Jesus Predicts His Death a Second Time*

<sup>30</sup> They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, <sup>31</sup> because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

Q28. Why do you think they were afraid to ask Jesus what He meant?

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*Who is Greatest?*

<sup>33</sup> They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" <sup>34</sup> But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

Q29. Why do you think they were afraid to admit to Jesus that they had been arguing about who was the greatest amongst them?

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Q30. Do you think that pride helped fuel their "discussion"? Is "pride" a good human trait? Why? Or why not?

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<sup>35</sup> Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."


Q31. What is a "servant" and what does a servant do?

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Q32. What did Jesus mean in verse 35?

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**Day 5**

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>36</sup> He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

Q33. To whom does Jesus refer when He said "the one who sent me"?

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Q34. How can we welcome “one of these little children in my name”?

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*Whoever Is Not Against Us Is for Us*

<sup>38</sup> "Teacher," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us."

<sup>39</sup> "Do not stop him," Jesus said. "No one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, <sup>40</sup> for whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward.

Q35. If we are the hands, feet, and mouth of our Lord Jesus to the world, what is Jesus implying that we do?

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**Matthew 22:35-40** One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: " Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Q36. Please list actions that Christians are performing today that are non-Christian.

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Q37. Behavior: how are we Christians to treat people?

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Q38. Behavior: Are we to judge the behavior of non-believers? Why? Or why not?

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Q39. What can you do differently (or better) to draw people to Jesus, to eternal life through faith in our Savior?

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Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

*Causing to Stumble*


<sup>42</sup> "And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. <sup>44</sup> [Some manuscripts locate verse 48 here.] <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup> where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'


Q40. If I lust or if I shoplift, what is Jesus suggesting that I do? Why? Is He speaking directly or symbolically?

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Q41. If I sin, should I pray, repent, and seek God’s forgiveness?

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 In verses 42-47, Jesus is teaching that the pure and holy God cannot stand unrepentant sin. It is only through heartfelt prayer, repentance, and then the work of the Holy Spirit that we who believe will overcome our sinful natures. God cannot tolerate sin. However, because the Lord Jesus died for our sins and thereby took the punishment for our sins that we so justly deserve, we enter Heaven at the death of our physical bodies free from the stench of our sin.


 I am a sinner. I believe in the saving grace of our Lord Christ Jesus. I am indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14). I am a work-in-progress undergoing continual refinement by a holy and loving God who wants what is best for my soul. I ask God for forgiveness and repent of the sins I either knowingly or accidentally commit (Romans 7:15, 17-18, 20). That said, a prayer of repentance is not a “Get out of jail free” card; society may impose a consequence for my sin.

<sup>49</sup> Everyone will be salted with fire.

<sup>50</sup> "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other."

Q42. What does “salted with fire” mean to you?

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 “Salt and fire have properties in common. Salt, like a subtle flame, penetrates all that is corruptible, and separates that which is decaying and foul [evil], [while] it fixes and quickens that which is sound. Fire destroys that which is perishable, and thereby establishes the imperishable in its purest perfection, and leads to new and more beautiful forms of being. Thus, both effect a kind of transformation. [Source: The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges; <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/mark/9-49.htm>]

Q43. Verse 50: What might “salt” represent? Can we substitute “belief” for “salt”, which then gives us this paraphrase: “Belief in Jesus is good, but if a person loses his belief, how can you make him believe again? Have belief-in-Jesus within ourselves, and be at peace with each other.”

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