

The Transfiguration: broadening the vision, Matthew Ch.17:1-13.

Whatever the endeavor, whether personal ambition or philanthropic enterprise, humans need a vision of what can be in order to put forth their best effort. In other words, we need inspiration. We can be given a key to a doorway, but unless we have some idea of what is behind it, we are compelled by little more than curiosity. A vision, though, engages our senses; vision, taste, smell, feeling, and emotions. It will keep us awake at night trying to figure out how to get more.

The Disciples witness the transfiguration

- 6 days after Jesus warned his disciples regarding the high cost of discipleship (16:24-28), he withdrew to a high mountain with Peter, James, and John.
 - From their perspective, *he was transfigured before them.*
 - *Metamorphoo (gr.), to alter, change one's form.* _____
 - They also saw Moses and Elijah.
 - How did they recognize them? _____
- Peter's reaction.
 - *It's cool that we're here; if you want we can build three huts for you.* _____
- God's immediate response.
 - Out of a bright cloud, God spoke: *this is my beloved son, with whom I am well-pleased: listen to him.* _____
- The disciple's next reaction.
 - They fell on their faces in fear. _____
 - *Oops did we say something wrong?* _____

Jesus' use of the moment

- *Don't be afraid.* _____
 - This was a fulfillment of what he previously spoken (16:28). _____
- *Don't tell this to anyone until I arise.* _____
 - Confusing to the disciples. _____

Now the question: the disciples seek a little clarity

- After the "wow" of the moment. _____
- *So, if we've just seen you speaking with Moses and Elijah, what do the scribes mean by saying "Elijah is coming and will restore all things?"* _____
 - Malachi 4:5-6; the last words of the O.T. _____
- And Jesus answers:
 - Elijah is coming . . . but I say to you (also) that Elijah has already come, but they didn't recognize him, but rather did whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man must suffer.*
 - A reference to John the Baptist. _____

Getting it: grasping the weight of this vision

- The vision foretold, Matt. 16:28: . . . *until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.* _____
 - If the disciples had been a little slow at the switch up until now, _____.
- The lesson of John the Baptist.
 - *He must increase, but I must decrease, John 3:30.* _____
 - He saw the vision, embraced it, and accepted his place in it. _____
 - Not what the average Christian would embrace. _____
- The future for Peter, James, and John.
 - They were now beginning to get it. _____
 - Despite setbacks, they would now succeed in being the Kingdom representatives they were chosen to be. _____
 - All three would be martyred, as was John the Baptist. _____

Now back to us

- A clear, hard vision is necessary to success. _____
- There will be sacrifices, but vision fulfillment will motivate us. _____
- The kingdom vision, as seen here, is for the glory of Jesus, and preparation for his return. _____
- The question though, is:
Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink? Matt.20:23
