

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Matthew 16:26

- In vv. 24-25 the Lord explained to the disciples that the key to a wonderful life is pursuing the will of God above all other things.
- To lose one's life for the sake of Jesus Christ equates to doing what God has prepared for you to do – and has equipped you to do. To resist God's will is to do what we want to do with our lives.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Matthew 16:26-28 “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?”

- The answer is nothing!
- Pursuing the things of this world as opposed to the plan of God will profit us nothing in eternity.

Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul [life]? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.

- At the end of the day, we will all have to answer to Jesus Christ, whether believer or unbeliever.
- Unbelievers at the Great White Throne Judgment of **Revelation 20:11-15**
- Believers at the Judgment Seat of Christ – **2 Corinthians 5:10**
- What will it profit the unbeliever, standing at the Great White Throne, if he has gained all the possessions of the world?
- What will it profit the believer, at the Judgment Seat of Christ, if he has pursued the things of this world as opposed to God's will for our lives?

²⁸ “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death [reference physical death] until they see the Son of Man **coming** in His kingdom.”

- **Coming** - ἔρχομαι – ERCHOMAI - In this context this word has the nuance of *appearing*.
- Some of the disciples would not die physically until they saw the Lord Jesus Christ appearing in His kingdom.
- That is what they see at the Transfiguration.



Matthew 17:1-3 Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves.

- Up on Mt Hermon because they are in Caesarea-Philippi
- Above the Golan Heights

² And He was transfigured before them. . .

- **Transfigured** – μεταμορφῶ – **METAMORPHOO** - *To change in appearance or form*
- This transfiguration was visible to the human eye.
 - It happened at once.
 - The humanity of Christ changed in appearance.
 - This is something that God the Father brought about.

. . . and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.

John 17:5 "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- The Father is revealing the glory of His eternal Son.

³ And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

- Moses and Elijah are in interim bodies awaiting the resurrection of their respective dispensation.
- Please observe they are *recognizable* in their interim body.
- If a believer dies prior to the Rapture of the Church, that believer – in interim body – is recognizable to other believers.

³ And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

For what Moses & Elijah were talking to the Lord about, turn to **Luke 9:28**.

Luke 9:28 Some eight days after these sayings,

- Matthew states it was *six days later* - Matthew did not count the day the Lord was speaking or the day of transfiguration.
- Luke says - *Some eight days after*
- That's why there are SIX days according to Matthew and EIGHT days according to Luke.

He took along Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.

- They are heading for the high ground for some privacy to pray.
- These three were present the week before when the Lord said in **Matthew 16:28** -

Matthew 16:28 “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here [Peter, John, & James] who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming/*appearing* in His kingdom.”

- This is all visible to the human eye.

Luke 9:29-33 And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing *became white and* gleaming. ³⁰ And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, ³¹ who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

- Moses and Elijah are speaking to the Lord about His death.
- What would be the high points you would pray for?

³² Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep; but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him. ³³ And as they were leaving Him . . .

- After the conversation about the Lord's death, Moses and Elijah start to depart.
- This bothers Peter; he thinks the Kingdom is coming right here - right now.

. . . Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tabernacles: one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not realizing what he was saying.

- He did not understand what was going on.

The Lord told Peter that it was the Father's will for Him to go to Jerusalem – to suffer at the hands of the religious leaders; to be killed and to be resurrected.

- Peter forgot about all that – He's ready to sit up there with Moses, Elijah, and the King to get things started.

Matthew 17:5-8 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!”

In other words, if my Son told you He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day - THEN LISTEN TO HIM!

POD: When you don't understand what's happening in the plan of God it's best to keep your mouth shut and watch.

⁶ When the disciples heard *this*, they fell face down to the ground and were terrified. ⁷ And Jesus came to *them* and touched them and said, “**Get up, and do not be afraid.**” ⁸ And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone. ⁹ As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “**Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.**”

- If there was any talk of the Transfiguration the people would attempt to take the Lord by force and install Him as king.

2 Kings 2:11 As they [Elijah & Elisha] were going along and talking, behold, *there appeared* a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.

- Elijah did not experience physical death!
- Elijah was caught up to heaven.
- At the Rapture of the Church, believers will be caught up to heaven to meet the Lord in the air.
- Moses experienced physical death!

Both Moses and Elijah are in interim bodies that reflect the glory of God.

The entire scene depicted what the Millennial Kingdom will be like on earth.

- You will have those who never experienced physical death in their translated bodies that reflect the glory of God. (Rapture Generation)

Elijah represents the Rapture Generation.

- You will have those who experienced physical death but are in resurrection bodies that reflect the glory of God.

Moses represents those who have believed in Christ yet have tasted physical death.

- You will have people in their regular mortal bodies just as the disciples were up top Mt. Hermon (unglorified Jews).

Peter, James, & John represent these Jews that will live in the Kingdom in an unglorified body.

- The crowd of Gentiles further down the mountain represent Gentiles who will be present in the Millennial Kingdom. (unglorified Gentiles)

The Millennial Kingdom begins with believers only.

- Notice that Moses was on top Mt. Hermon - in the Promised Land.
- God did not prevent Moses from entering the land because he sinned – Moses was poured out and had accomplished all the Lord wanted him to do when he died on Mt. Pisgah.

Matthew 17:10-13 And His disciples asked Him, “Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”

Malachi 4:5 “Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.”

Remember that blessing and cursing were both linked to the arrival of Messiah.

¹¹ And He answered and said, “Elijah is coming and will restore all things; ¹² but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him [reference John the Baptist], but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.” ¹³ Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.

They are beginning to understand a few things about what the Lord is doing.

Peter, James, John, and the Lord come down off the heights of Mt Hermon and a crowd meets them.

The Lord is focused on the cross!

The other disciples have been having a hard time attempting to cast out a demon from a boy who is cruelly demon possessed.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.