

The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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~ All articles are written by Terry Carter unless otherwise stated ~

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Terry Carter, Editor

The Glorification of Jesus

-A Communion Meditation-

The transfiguration of Jesus is recorded in all three of the synoptic Gospels. It is found in **Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36**. It is obviously an important event in the life of Christ.

In his second epistle, Peter wrote about it many years later, **II Pet. 1:16-18**. For the apostles who were there, it was a life changing event.

When Jesus was transfigured, the apostles who were there got just a glimpse of His glory. As one author put it, "*His Deity shone through the rags of mortal flesh*". Another has said, "*...from start to finish, the whole atmosphere of the Mountain of Transfiguration is glory.*"

Luke evidently agreed with these statements as he said that Moses and Elijah appeared in glory and that the apostles who were there saw the glory of Jesus.

"30 And behold, two men talked with Him, who were **Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory** and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. 32 But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and **when they were fully awake, they saw His glory** and the two men who stood with Him." **Luke 9:30-32 (NKJV)**

Peter later spoke of seeing the majesty of Jesus and said He received honor and glory when He was transfigured.

"16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but **were eyewitnesses of His majesty**. 17 For **He received from God the Father honor and glory** when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain." **II Peter 1:16-18 (NKJV)**

Each week as we partake of the Lord's Supper, it is also a glorification of Jesus. It is a time for Him to receive honor and glory in His Church. It is a place where we are to make known His majesty to the world. As His broken flesh and shed blood are remembered there, His Deity is shown to all.

There are three things we see at the transfiguration that we should ponder as we partake of our memorial of Jesus' death which He referred to as 'His glorification'.

"23 But Jesus answered them, saying, "**The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified**. 24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." **John 12:24-24 (NKJV)**

"31 So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, "**Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him**. 32 "If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately." **John 13:32-32 (NKJV)**

First, notice that only three of the apostles were invited to the Mount of Transfiguration.

Peter, James, and John were the only ones who witnessed this glorification of the Lord. When Peter saw the glory of Jesus, he said, "Lord, it is good for us to be here..."

Not everything Peter said at that time was right, but this was. I am certain that none of the three who were there would have wanted to miss that experience.

"Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "**Lord, it is good for us to be here**; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'" **Matthew 17:4 (NKJV)**

We, as Christians, have been invited each week to come away from the world to honor and glorify Jesus at His table of remembrance. It is good for us to be there. None of us should want to miss such a wonderful thing as this. Not everybody has this privilege. Only Christians who are part of the New Covenant enjoy such communion. The world does not.

"28 "For **this is My blood of the new covenant**, which is shed for

many for the remission of sins. 29 "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when **I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.**" **Matthew 26:28-29 (NKJV)**

Second, it is a fearful thing to be present when the glory of the Lord is being seen.

All three of the Gospel writers speak of the fear that fell upon Peter, James, and John. Matthew records the fact that Jesus told them not to be afraid. It is a fearful thing to be in the presence of God Almighty. Like Isaiah before them, they were afraid.

"6 And when the disciples heard it, **they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.** 7 But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and **do not be afraid.**" **Matthew 17:6-7 (NKJV)**

When we come to something as sacred as the Lord's Supper, we ought to have a deep sense of reverence and fear of the Lord. We are not worthy to be in the presence of Deity. The apostles understood that, and we should too. It is only the blood of Jesus that allows us to be part of such a sacred event. The Lord's Supper is not something to be taken lightly, done casually, or flippantly. This is why Paul warned the Corinthians about partaking in an unworthy manner.

"27 Therefore **whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.** 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For **he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself**, not discerning the Lord's body." **I Corinthians 11:27-29 (NKJV)**

Third, when the glory of the Lord is seen, the focus needs to be exclusively on Him.

Peter learned this after suggesting that they build three tabernacles - one for Moses, one for Elijah, and

one for Jesus. God Himself corrected this wrong idea even while it was being spoken.

"4 Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 5 **While he was still speaking**, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly **a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"**" **Matthew 17:4-5 (NKJV)**

Even great servants of the Lord, like Moses and Elijah, deserve no glory next to the Lord Himself. Similarly, when we meet for the Lord's Supper, our worship should be only for the Lord Himself. We need to block out all the other distractions and focus on Jesus and what He did for us in His death. We dare not exalt anyone to His level, not even faithful servants of His. This is supposed to be a time to remember Him and Him alone.

"And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**" **Luke 22:19 (NKJV)**

"24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**" 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, **in remembrance of Me.**" **I Corinthians 11:24-25 (NKJV)**