

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

## Jesus Only (Hear Him!)

Matthew 17:1-13

### Last week:

- Jesus confesses Jesus as the Christ
- Church built on the rock of the Good News
- Jesus starts talking about the ultimate goal of His life - death & resurrection

**Peter suffers foot in mouth disease...but worse...**

**the enemy's words himself in trying to keep Jesus from the cross**

*DGC Everyone knew that the cross was an unrelenting instrument of death.*

**The cross had no other purpose.**

*In these twenty centuries after Jesus, we have done a pretty good job in sanitizing and ritualizing the cross. Yet Jesus said something much like this: "Walk down death row daily and follow Me." **Taking up your cross wasn't a journey; it was a one-way trip. There was no return ticketing; it was never a round trip.***

*Wiersbe - "Denying self is not the same as self-denial. We practice self-denial when, for a good purpose, we occasionally give up things or activities. But we deny self when we surrender ourselves to Christ and determine to obey His will."*

*Human nature wants to indulge self, not **deny** self. **Death to self is always terrible, and if we expect it to be a pleasant or mild experience, we will often be disillusioned.** Death to self is the radical command of the Christian life. To **take up** your cross meant one thing: you were going to a certain death, and your only hope was in resurrection power.*

**Does this describe your idea of Christianity?**

**...Following Jesus. Being a disciple.**

**It should. It was Jesus' description of it.**

**What keeps you from your cross? From really following Jesus?**

**[Pray]**

## 17:1-4

### About a week later Jesus, Peter, James and John take a hike

#### Why them?

- Out of the 12, who were the closest with Jesus?
- Maybe the others weren't ready
- Not everybody gets to see everything  
*My five kids, try to give them all everything, but sometimes some kids get a new toy this week, other kids get a happy meal next week, etc.*
- Maybe sometimes the trouble makers need to be kept close

#### James and John, sons of thunder

Loud, boisterous, full of energy

#### This hike had a purpose.

It's not like Jesus didn't intend for what happens to happen or know what the Father was planning.

#### High mountain

High, lofty, exalted

Something special about getting away from it all, in nature, to spend time with God

*Hiking spot back east, Jake and I in the Bitterroot*

#### Transfigured before them

They saw it. He didn't disappear into a phone booth like superman

**metamorphosis** - like butterfly - to change into another form  
Wouldn't the resurrection provide a metamorphosis as well?

#### Anyone who says Jesus wasn't fully God while a man is forgetting this

**This was the Son of God being revealed in the Son of Man  
His Spiritual form**

*Ever conceal who you are to others? For good reason?  
Don't need to draw attention to yourself  
Don't need the reward from saying it*

*But those close to you know*

*People don't know I'm a pastor. Probably wouldn't believe it even if I told them!*

**Jesus reveals, no bones about it. Who He really is to them.  
He has power. But he's holding back for a purpose - meekness.**

**Face shown like sun  
Clothes bright as the light**

Ultimate laundry detergent ad

### **Picture it**

Think about the sun. You cannot look at it for long and not go blind

His clothes glowing

This isn't hyperbole.

Think John remembered this day when he wrote this?

**1 John 1:5 NKJV - This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.**

### **Behold, Moses & Elijah talking with Him**

Basically appear out of the light. Maybe blinded for a second and then they see Moses and Elijah

**ALIVE. On Earth. On this mountain.**

**The biggest heroes of their faith**

- The one who led Israel out, Giver of the law
- The one who was a legendary prophet, caught up to heaven.

**The law and the prophets...and Jesus**

### **Doing what? Having a down-to-earth conversation!**

Jesus has a relationship with these guys. A normal, friendly, loving, God and man relationship

**Peter pipes up, this is good!**

**Let's build you three (not us) shelters to stay in**

**Peter, yes, it is good**

**But, you think they need tents? Lean toos?**

**You have your little goatskin tent? You gonna make something out of the brush?**

**Again, this awe and shock and wonder**

**But followed up by the most out-of-touch answer**

Many times we see God at work - or here, just being God

We're amazed, we love it. We can't believe we get to be a part...

Then instead of joining in what God is doing, we try to do something silly and unrelated because our flesh thinks it's what's needed.

**We miss the moment! Listen in. Learn something from Jesus.**

**Get close, maybe let Jesus introduce you to M&E**

*What were they saying and talking about?*

*Maybe take notes for the rest of us!*

I don't know that Peter interrupted the conversation, the word doesn't seem to suggest that... but...

**:5-8**

**While he was still speaking...**

Peter's timing wasn't great here, can't we relate?

**James 1:19 NKJV - So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;**

**Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 NKJV - Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil. Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God [is] in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few.**

**A bright cloud**

Word seems to mean that the cloud itself was composed of light

Not just light coming out of water droplets condensed on dust

## **Shekinah glory of God**

God's presence

Pillar of cloud by day, fire by night

God's presence in the Holy of Holies, above the ark, mercy seat, between the cherubim

**1 Timothy 6:15-16 NKJV** - He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, **dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see**, to whom [be] honor and everlasting power. Amen.

***And Peter wants to build a dwelling out of his backpack tent or whatever they can find on the mountain...***

## **A voice came from the cloud!**

### **The Father's voice!**

How do we know? He calls Jesus His beloved Son.

*I gotta tell ya...i love my kids. And I love when they do the right thing. When they do it without me knowing. Just be little disciples of Jesus on their own. When they talk, I try to listen. When they want to talk to me, I try to make myself available. I love them. When they have something to say, I want to make sure everyone hears. Everyone sees what they do, who they are.*

*When they're not little angels, I don't broadcast that to the world. I try not to shame them in front of others, especially if it wasn't done in front of others. Why? I love them.*

## **And Jesus?**

### **Jesus pleases the Father.**

**John 10:30 NKJV** - "I and [My] Father are one."

## **And because of that, what is God's command?**

### **What should be our response?**

#### **To hear Him.**

- Not deaf
- Attend to, consider what is being said
- Understand
- Get by hearing, learn
- Find out, comprehend
- Pay attention to what he's saying!

**When they heard that, they were greatly afraid**

**Booming voice of the Father!**

When I raise my voice to get my kids' attention. Put the bass into it to establish authority.

**Some of them were the sons of thunder**  
**but here was the Father of thunder**

*Voice like rushing waters!*

**To the hyper pentecostal...here's slain in the spirit**

The voice of God will cause you to fall down as if dead

There will be severe awe, reverence, and realization of HIS power

And your utter lack

**But with the voice of the father comes the touch of Jesus**

**Do not be afraid.**

*Times in worship*

**When they looked up, what did they see?**

**None but Jesus only.**

It wasn't about Moses and Elijah - they're just men

It wasn't about the bright shining vision

**It was about really hearing the voice and the words of Jesus**

About seeing him for who he is and leaving our ideas at the bottom of the mountain

Like I said last week...

**I'm really tired of pretending Jesus isn't who He is**

**Not to unbelievers. But with believers.**

**The arguments over things Moses wrote down**

**Or seeking after miracles from our own hands to experience**

**something like Elijah**

**Can we please, please...just listen to...and hear... what Jesus is saying?**

**To us personally? To the churches?**

**Can we please just be quiet and listen to and look for Him?**

**And stop trying to build him a lousy temple out of stones,  
and sticks, and traditions and ideas and religion and self-righteousness?**

**Can we just read the Bible and study it and see what God will say and do and go?  
Can that please just be enough for us?**

**Can we please stop seeking after being right about some opinion  
that's clearly not what the Bible is teaching**

**Can we please just know what the Bible says so we can stop doing things in church that  
are crazy, weird, or downright evil?**

**Can we, please... just hear Him? And Him Only?**

## **:9-13**

### **The hike back down**

Boy, did they have a lot to think about?

Do you think they even said a word?

Did the shock and awe continue with every quiet step on the path back down?

*The difference between the hike up and the hike back...*

**Jesus says tell no one what you saw until the Son of Man is risen from the dead  
(again, describing who He is...a man...)**

**But the revelation was too much for everyone else until after the resurrection**

The disciples ask about the resurrection...nope

It's as if they keep missing what he's saying maybe?

So caught up in everything else they miss the bigger picture

### **Well, what about Elijah?**

**The scribes say he's supposed to come back**

**Malachi 4:5 NKJV - Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the  
great and dreadful day of the LORD.**

*Maybe, wait, he showed up but he showed up after you.  
Again, not thinking fourth dimensionally Marty!*

## **Elijah has come already!**

### **Not reincarnated, but in office**

But he will be back again, two witnesses in Revelation 11:3-13

### **This visit wasn't for the dreadful day, this was prior to the cross**

- John, one like Elijah, proclaimed repentance to the world
- for the dreadful day of the cross
- Elijah will return to proclaim repentance (to any still able) before final judgment

**The disciples got this. Jesus didn't have to totally spell it out this time.  
They were catching on.  
They were hearing.**

**Ultimately the Law and the Prophets point to Jesus and Jesus only.  
Ultimately any man of God in the Bible points to Jesus and Jesus only.**

**Ultimately any doctrine, or ministry, or minister - if they're of God, will point to salvation  
in Jesus and Jesus only.**

*All of scripture points to Him  
Reveals Him  
Speaks of Him  
Depends on Him*

**He doesn't do away with the law and prophets.  
He fulfills them.**

**He's the ultimate Word of God  
He's the ultimate prophet of God.**

**And He, and He alone, we should hear.**