

A Taste of Heaven

The Disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration

Luke 9:28-36

There are only three disciples whom Jesus takes to the top of the mountain. Why not all of the Twelve?

- (1). Not all of Christ's disciples experience the same rewards, blessings, and provisions in this life.
- (2). The Jews believed- "*In the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established.*"
- (3). Most importantly, these three, Peter, John, and James, would be the same three who would see Jesus agonizing in the garden, sweating great drops of blood. God takes us to mountains before valleys.

I. In the Transfiguration we see a picture of heaven and Christian hope.

There are two men, Moses and Elijah, who appear with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration..

- a. **The two men are recognized** – How is it possible that Moses, who died 1400 years earlier, and Elijah, caught up to heaven 900 years earlier? Answer: *Divine revelation*.
- b. **The two men “appeared in glory”** – meaning they looked the same as Christ in dress and in appearance (in “glory”). We are “co-heirs with Christ because of His righteousness.
- c. **The two men represent all the saints** – Moses represents all those who are dead and buried, and Elijah represents those “caught up in the air” when the Lord comes.
- d. **The two men are the Law and the Prophets** – meaning Moses is the “giver of the Law” in the Old Covenant, and Elijah is the greatest prophet of that time – but Jesus is central.
- e. **The two men are alive and well** – which is true of all those who will appear in heaven.

II. In the Transfiguration we see the primacy of hearing Christ speak.

The coming of Christ changes everything about the way we live. We are to be people led by the Spirit, not people led by Law. We listen to the voice of Christ, and are no longer bound to ANY Law of the Old Covenant. The Temple laws, the dietary laws, the Sabbath laws, the ritual circumcision laws, the gender laws, the tithing laws, the hierarchical laws of authority, and all other laws of ancient Israel have fulfilled and set aside by Jesus Christ (see Hebrews 10:9).

Peter, seeing Moses and Elijah (the great representatives of the Old Agreement, for all of the Old Covenant Scriptures are called “Moses and the Prophets” (Luke 24:27). The Law and the Prophets *point to Jesus Christ. “This is my beloved Son; (akoute auton) hear Him!”* Christ alone is our authority. Unlike the disciples that walked *with* Christ on earth, we can't see Christ visibly or hear Him audibly. We can't physically walk with Him, personally and audibly talk with Him, privately eat with Him, or publicly minister with Him--so how in the world do we “hear Him” since He's gone? *“It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you . . . When the Spirit of truth comes, the Spirit will guide you . . .” (John 16:7-8, 13).* Are you listening to the Spirit of God speak to you today?

III. In the Transfiguration we see the power of having experienced a taste of heaven.

in the first few centuries after Jesus returned to heaven, the funeral was a true time of celebration—not of the person's life but of what had happened to the person. The memories were not the focus. Rather, they celebrated the death, because death, for a Christian, was relief. It was rest. It was the beginning of the new creation. My father has always said, “No man is truly ready to live until he is prepared to die.” Have you tasted of the grace of Jesus Christ?