

*Ears that Hear the Words of Christ*  
Matthew 17:1-8

In a recent Barna poll, Americans attribute the greatest influence in their lives to their family, then their friends, and third of all, their religious faith. In our study, the Face of Grace, we've been asking the question "What does a graced person (Christian) look like?" If we are called to reflect the image of the God of all grace to the world in which we live, how do we live out our faith? We are called to "Hear Him."

**I. The Mount of Transfiguration is the place where we hear God's will for our lives.**

Jesus calls three of His disciples – Peter, James, and John – to walk with Him to the top of a mountain. These three – Peter, John, and James – would be the same three who would later see Jesus agonizing in the garden, sweating great drops of blood. *God sometimes take us to mountains before the valleys.* On top of this mountain appear two men, Moses, the Lawgiver of old and Elijah, the prophet old. The Old Testament is often called *the Law and the Prophets* and these two men represent that Covenant.

Peter says, *"Let us make some tents and enjoy fellowship with these two men!"*

Suddenly the mountain shakes, the shekinah glory of God descends, and God says, "THIS is my SON, HEAR HIM" (*akoute auton* in Greek). Pay attention to what He says. Give ear to His words in your life.

**II. The New Covenant Jesus Christ inaugurates gives us a NEW way to live.**

We are to listen to Christ. We are to be people led by the Spirit that Christ gives us. The Law that we follow is the Royal Law (Christ's Law) to love others as He has demonstrated His love for us. 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 8:13). So now we follow a Person, not a religion. We hear Him.

A NEW Law-Giver – Jesus  
A NEW Law – The Royal Law of Love  
A NEW Method – Worship in spirit and truth  
A NEW Place – "You are the Temple of God"  
A NEW Mission – "Go and Tell"  
A NEW Expectation – "Yes and Amen"  
A NEW People – All nations and peoples

**III. Hearing Christ every day is the face of grace, the evidence of His presence in us.**

The Law and the Prophets point to Jesus Christ. Christ alone is our authority. Unlike the disciples who 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? There are three primary ways we hear Christ.

- A. **His Words** – pull out your old-fashioned red-letter edition Bible. Read what Jesus Christ says about forgiveness, what He says about love, how He encourages you to live. Hear Him.
- B. **His Spirit** – The Scripture teaches us that Christ baptizes us in the Spirit. He told His disciples: "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 comes, He will guide you ..." (John 16:7,8,13).
- C. **His People** – "In the counsel of many there is great wisdom" (Prov. 15:22). Are you listening to the Spirit of God speak to you today? The resurrection is all about God making NEW His people.