

The Transfiguration

Context

Peter 's confession at Caesarea Philippi

Peter confesses Jesus is the Christ.

This was not revealed to him by man but by God.

Jesus was going to use Peter to build the church.

The disciples were commanded not to tell anyone.

Jesus predicts his death and resurrection

He told His disciples that He would go to Jerusalem and suffer many things, be killed and be raised to life after three days.

Peter spoke to Jesus that this would never happen.

Jesus spoke to Peter and rebuked Satan.

Jesus taught about the cost of following Him.

Jesus explains what it means to be His disciple

Jesus predicts Jesus will come in Glory and with His angels and reward people.

The Transfiguration

Jesus Teaches about Elijah

The disciples understand that Jesus is talking about John the Baptist

Jesus again talks about His suffering.

Jesus casts out a demon

Jesus demonstrated His power and authority and a boy is set free.

Jesus taught that people only needed to have faith the size of a mustard seed.

Fasting is necessary.

Jesus again predicts His death and Resurrection

Jesus would be betrayed, killed and be raised up.

NOTE: The transfiguration is found in the middle of each gospel. In eastern literature they make their main points in the middle of the book.

The Transfiguration

Similarities between Matthew, Mark and Luke.

1. Peter James and John went with Jesus up a mountain. (Luke names them as Peter, John and James)
 - Why these three men?
 - Is this the first time Jesus has just taken these three men on their own with him?
 - Why to a mountain?
 - Do we know what mountain it was?
2. Jesus' clothes became white. Jesus was transfigured between them.
 - What is the Greek meaning of transfigure?
 - Why do we think this happened?
3. Elijah and Moses both appear and talk with Jesus.
 - Why Elijah and Moses?
 - What do you think they were talking about with Jesus?
4. Peter said. It is good for us to be here. Three shelters were mentioned. One for Jesus, one for Elijah, One for Moses.
 - What is the significance of the shelters?
5. A cloud appeared and covered them.
 - What is the significance of the cloud?
6. A voice spoke from the cloud that said this is my Son (Luke – adds whom I have chosen). Listen to Him!
 - What other time did God audibly speak about Jesus?
 - Why did God say – listen to Him!
7. When the voice had spoken Elijah and Moses disappeared. There was just Jesus.
 - Is there something here we can conclude about Jesus?

The Transfiguration

Differences between Luke and Matthew and Mark.

Luke says:

1. Eight Days.
 - Is there a difference between six and eight days statement?
2. Jesus' went up the mountain to pray?
 - Was this a pattern in Jesus' life? Why? What might Luke saying here?
 - Did Jesus take disciples to pray with him at other times?
3. Elijah and Moses talked about Jesus' death in Jerusalem.
 - Why did they do this?
4. Peter and his companions were very sleepy. When they woke up they saw Jesus' Glory.
 - Is there another occasion Peter slept while Jesus was praying?
 - Why could they have been sleepy?
5. As the men were leaving Peter said they should build three shelters.
 - Why did Peter build three shelters what is the significance of these?
6. Peter did not know what he was saying?
 - Why in this account?
7. This is my Son (Whom I have chosen)?
 - Who did God say this to?
 - Why?

The Transfiguration

Luke 9:28 **About eight days after Jesus said this he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray.**

We cannot be sure of why Luke uses about eight days. Scholars believe that Peter's confession of faith was on a Sabbath, and from that Sabbath to the close of another and the ascension of mount Hermon was about eight days.

Peter James and John seemed to be the inner circle.

- Luke 8:51 **When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother.**
- Mark 14:33 **He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled.**

Peter Matthew 16:18 **And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.**

James, the brother of John. Matthew 4:21-22 James is described as one of the first disciples to join Jesus. **James and John were with their father by the seashore when Jesus called them to follow him** Acts 12:1-2 records that "Herod the king" had James executed by sword. He is the only apostle whose martyrdom is recorded in the New Testament. He is believed to be the first of the twelve apostles martyred for his faith.

John, also known as the beloved disciple. John 13:23 John reclined beside Jesus at the Last Supper. John 19:26-27 **When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.** John wrote the book of Revelation.

Prayer. Only Luke records that Jesus went to pray.

- The Bible records that Jesus was often found praying.
- Matthew 6:8-10: The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Jesus would often spend time in secluded places talking to His heavenly Father.
- Jesus may have prayed for His disciples as Elijah the prophet did in 2 kings 16:16-17 for his servant when the Syrians surrounded the city, so the servant might have his eyes opened to the heavenly host around them. As he also did in the garden of Gethsemane.
- Jesus prayed alone for himself because of the task ahead. Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane alone. Prayer sustained Him.

As Jesus and the disciples had not left the region of Caesarea the mountain must have been in the mountain ranges of mount Hermon.

The Transfiguration

Luke 9:29 ***As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.***

As He prayed He was transfigured. The English term is metamorphosis. Jesus' form was changed after being with the Father. His true inner person was revealed.

Moses' form changed after being in the presence of God. Exodus 34:29 *When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. cfi 34:35*

Luke 9:30 ***Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendour, talking with Jesus.***

Jewish tradition expected Moses and Elijah to reappear. They represented the Law and the Prophets. Both men had unusual departures from this world.

Moses. Moses spent times on Mountaintop in the presence of God. Deuteronomy 34:1-2 Moses climbed Mount Nebo and died there.

Elijah. 2 Kings 2:11 ***As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.***

Both men handed over their leadership to other men: Moses to Joshua, Elijah to Elisha. Jesus was going to hand over his ministry to His disciples.

Luke 9:31 ***They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfilment at Jerusalem.***

Departure means decease or exodus. Jesus talked about his departure from this world with Moses and Elijah. The departure was about Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension. It was about Jesus' fulfilling and completing the law and prophecy.

The exodus of the people of Israel was to bring them out of bondage. The exodus of Jesus (his death, resurrection and ascension) was to bring people out of bondage.

Did they also come to strengthen Jesus for his mission to Jerusalem? In the Garden of Gethsemane we find in Luke 22:43 ***then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.***

The Transfiguration

Luke 9:32 **Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and two men standing with him.**

After a long ascent up the mountain, and the mountain air they became tired. It could be late at night. They had slept through Jesus praying with the Father and the two OT men visiting Jesus.

As they woke they saw Jesus' glory and Moses and Elijah.

In Matthew 26 we read in the Garden of Gethsemane the disciples also slept. Jesus also addressed Peter there about him sleeping.

Luke 9:33 **As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.)**

Peter wanted to prolong the visit. Peter misunderstood the purpose of the visit. He maybe thought the Last Days had arrived when the presence of God would be with the people of God again as in the first exodus. To commemorate the exodus Jews celebrated the Feast of Booths by living in a small booth or hut for seven days.(The Feast of the Tabernacles - sukkot). The Feast was looking ahead o the glorious day of Israel's deliverance.

Peter and his companions were sleepy. This may be Luke's way of explaining why Peter would not know what he was saying (verse 32)

Luke 9:34 **While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.**

The cloud represented the presence of the Lord.

Exodus 19:9 **The Lord said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you.**

When the cloud covered the tabernacle, Moses was not able to enter, Exodus 40:34 **Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.**

2 Chronicles 5:13-14 **The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: "He is good; his love endures forever." Then the temple of the LORD was filled with a cloud, ¹⁴ and the priests**

The Transfiguration

could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God.

It is no wonder that they were afraid.

Luke 9:35 **A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."**

The Heavenly Father affirmed Jesus' redemptive mission.

- The voice was for the disciples benefit.
- The Heavenly Father commands the disciples to accept Jesus' instructions about His suffering. The Father also spoke at Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:17 **And a voice from heaven said, This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.**) but this time we have the phrase – Listen to Him! The time of Elijah and Moses was over it was time to heed Jesus' words.
- They had seen Jesus' glory and now they had heard the voice of God declaring who Jesus was.

Luke 9:36 **When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.**

The visitors had gone. The cloud had gone. The voice of God was silent. Only Jesus remained.

What they had experienced was to be kept secret until Easter.