

August 30, 2020
Christ Chapel Of Bandera
Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Not needed to follow this writing/lesson is a referenced Study Guide. An attempt has been made where anybody with a Bible will find easy reading.

Sunday August 30, 2020. The Gospel Project; Adult Daily Discipleship Guide ESV Volume 8; Number 4; Summer 2020; “Jesus is Transfigured”.

Opening Joke:

What is the best food when you’re so hungry you could eat a house? Cottage cheese or wall nuts.

Opening Prayer:

In class: Ask an attendee to open with a word of prayer.

On WEB site: Lord, Creator of all, we thank you for this time to study Your word, to get to know You better. We ask that You speak to our hearts in such a way as to change our lives. Mold us and make us into what pleases You. Help us forget ourselves and put You first in our thinking, our thoughts, our actions, our lives. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

The Lesson:

Our Study Guide on page 121 in the *Session in a Sentence* section says, “At the transfiguration, Peter, James, and John beheld Jesus’ glory, which gave them a glimpse into the day when Jesus will return in full glory”.

Questions for thought:

What is meant by “transfiguration”? (A 1938 copy of Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary 5th Edition: A transfiguring; the supernatural change in the appearance of Jesus on the mountain or a church feast (August 6) commemorating this.

If Jesus is the Son of God, in fact a member of the triune God, then is to behold the glory of Jesus the same as to behold the glory of God?

Has anybody before the transfiguration seen the glory of God and lived? (Exo 33:18-23 Moses).

After Moses saw the glory of God what happened to his face? (Exo 34:29-35).

What is meant by “the day when Jesus will return in full glory”?

Using the Bible translation of your choice read Matt 17:1-8.

Questions for thought:

Prior to the transfiguration, in Matt chapter 16, Peter confessed that Jesus is the Son of God, Jesus foretold of His death, and Jesus warned that discipleship is costly. Is there a reason/purpose for the transfiguration to occur just six days later?

Were Moses and Elijah at the ascension of Jesus? (Luke 24:50-53)

Continued questions for thought:

Will Moses and Elijah be there when Jesus returns in full glory? (Revelation; depending on personal interpretation).

Why were Moses and Elijah at the transfiguration? Did Jesus need their advice or council?

Did the presence of Moses and Elijah help associate the Old Testament with the New Testament?

Would building three tents or tabernacles on the mountain serve any purpose for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah? If not, what does that indicate for Christians today that think or act inappropriately as a result of misunderstanding a particular aspect of God?

Would building three tents or tabernacles on the mountain have served a purpose for mankind?

During the transfiguration, God the Father spoke and said in part “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased”. Is there anyplace else in the Bible where God spoke such words? (Matt 3:13-17 The Baptism of Jesus)

During the transfiguration God the Father added in Matt 17:5, “Listen to Him”. Is this a command from God?

Is there any significance to God the Father giving instructions to listen to His Son at this time (during the transfiguration)?

In Matt 17:6, why did Peter, James, and John become terrified upon hearing the voice of God? (Note: Depending on personal interpretation other Gospels indicate Peter, James, and John became terrified at other specific times during the transfiguration).

In Matt 17:7 when Jesus told Peter, James, and John not to have fear and they saw only Jesus, was their fear gone? If so, why?

Was it because they put their full trust in Jesus?

If so, what does that mean for Christians today?

Our Study Guide says in part on page 122 the last paragraph, the last sentence, “The importance of these figures (Moses and Elijah) is greater than just the men themselves, for they signified something crucial – that Jesus is the fulfillment of both the Law and the Prophets (Matt 5:17)”.

On page 123 the first paragraph after the Bible quote the last two sentences the Study Guide says, “He (God) is altogether different – He is transcendent and incomprehensible by us. At the mere sound of the thunderous voice of God from a bright cloud, the three disciples collapsed in terror”.

Continuing on page 123 in the next complete paragraph the Study Guide says, “The only way the disciples were going to move out of terror at the thunderous voice from the clouds was if God Himself stepped in to invoke their courage through His grace. So Jesus said “Rise, and have no fear”. He was speaking particularly for that moment, but there is a day coming when He will utter the same exhortation and mean it for all eternity. Those who have trusted in Jesus alone through faith alone by grace alone for their salvation will enter into a rest in which fear will be no more”.

The Study Guide says on page 126 the first paragraph, the last sentence, “Christianity doesn’t call us to summit a mountain in order to see God; it tells us to behold the God who descended from the mountain and makes Himself accessible to us”.

In the next paragraph the Study Guide says, “Beyond just coming down from a mountain, Jesus, the Son of God, came down from heaven by taking on flesh and meeting us in our mess. Ultimately, He will “come down the mountain” again when He comes back for His bride – the church – at the end of all things”.

On page 127 the Study Guide says in the third paragraph, “God does not call His people to a life of fear but to one of courage. The fear of the Lord casts out all other fears because we know with Him on our side, there is nothing left worthy of our fear. “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom 8:31).

Using the Bible translation of your choice read Mat 17:9-13.

Questions for thought:

Why was it important for Peter, James, and John not to tell anyone about the transfiguration until after the “Son of Man is raised from the dead”?

Were Peter, James, and John allowed to speak of the transfiguration after Jesus rose from the dead but before the ascension into heaven of Jesus?

Why did Elijah have to come before Jesus?

Using the Bible translation of your choice read Malachi 4:4-6.

Questions for thought:

In Matt 17:11 Jesus said, “Elijah does come and he will restore all things”. What did or will Elijah restore?

Why were Peter, James, and John more interested in details about Elijah than learning more about “the Son of Man” being “raised from the dead”?

On page 124 with the first paragraph the Study Guide says, “After His display of glory in His transfiguration, Jesus told the disciples that He later would be raised from the dead, which implied His coming death, but the disciples wanted to talk about a prophecy concerning the coming of Elijah. So Jesus made the connection for them between Elijah and John the Baptist. Then, He connected the abuse, mistreatment, and execution of John the Baptist with how He would soon be treated as He headed towards the cross”. Still on page 124 in the last complete paragraph, the last sentence the Study Guide implies that the crucifixion of Jesus, the Son of God, was the darkest day in human history. However, just three days later was the most glorious day in human history, the resurrection of Jesus, the Son of God.

The Study Guide says on page 127 the last complete paragraph, the last sentence, “Unlike the disciples who were alive prior to Jesus’ resurrection and exaltation, we have been freely and unambiguously charged to announce to everyone everywhere that Jesus is the risen and rightful King because His conquest was completed at the cross”.

Questions for thought:

Did Jesus complete His conquest at the cross or with His resurrection?

Is it just coincidence that the last subject written about in the last book of the Old Testament (Malachi 4:4-6) the “coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord”?

Are Malachi 4:4-6 limited to just indicating Jesus’ sacrifice and resurrection?

If not, to what other events might the passage be referring?

As a Christian, how bright is your future?

We now have an opportunity to go next door and thank Jesus, thank God for our future in his presents forever. Let us do so with gladness.

Thank you for your time.

Joe Huth