

Matthew 16:28-17:3 A Preview of the Glory of the Lord

Introduction: Jesus told His disciples that soon He would be killed and be raised again. Anyone who would follow Him must be willing to suffer, which was not very inviting. He encouraged them to follow Him by saying that He would come in glory and would reward His followers. Yet the enticement of distant glory would be lessened by imminent sufferings. So Jesus gave additional incentive by promising that some would see His glory soon. They would not need to wait for the distant future.

I. The promise made. 16:28

- A. Jesus promised that some would not die until they had seen His glory.
 - 1. That text says, "...see the Son of man coming in his kingdom." (The word "glory" is not found, but glory is implied.)
 - 2. Mark 9:1 says "coming in his power". (Again glory is implied.)
- B. This promise could not refer to His second coming because some would still be living when it would be fulfilled.
- C. Therefore its fulfillment could not be the millennial kingdom itself but a genuine preview of the glory of the Lord which will be so evident in the millennial kingdom.

II. The fulfillment of the promise. 17:1-3

- A. The fulfillment came very quickly, Verse 1.
 - 1. Matthew says "after six days."
 - 2. Luke 9:28 says "after about eight days."
 - 3. Matthew did not count the day the promise was made nor the day it was fulfilled.
(1 + 6 + 1 = 8)
- B. Jesus took Peter, James and John up into a mountain.
 - 1. Traditionally, this was believed to be Mt Tabor.
 - 2. Recent writers prefer Mt. Hermon.
 - 3. No one knows and it does not matter
- C. It must have been near night by the time they arrived.
 - 1. Luke 9:32 says that the disciples fell asleep while Jesus prayed.
 - 2. Awakened, perhaps by voices, there was a glorious sight to behold.
- D. Jesus was transfigured. (Transformed, changed) Verse 2
 - 1. His face did shine as the sun. (They could not gaze directly upon it, but must take only glances.)
 - 2. The glory of Deity God did shine through His fleshly body.
 - 3. It was so bright that it did shine through His clothing. (They lit up like a light bulb.)
 - 4. His clothing was white like snow; whiter than bleach could make them, Mark 9:3.
- E. Moses and Elijah were talking with Him.
- F. Peter, James and John listened and watched in amazement.
- G. So far as I can tell this is the only time Jesus was ever seen in His glorified form while on earth.
 - 1. He was later seen after His resurrection, but not in His glorified form.
 - 2. He was seen ascend to heaven but not in His glorified form.
 - 3. His power was evident on Pentecost, but He personally was not seen.
 - 4. His power was evident in the miracles done by the apostles in their ministry, but He was not visible.
 - 5. Paul did later see Him in glory, but Jesus was not here on earth.
 - 6. Stephen saw Him, but no here on earth.

III. The result of the preview.

- A. The three were told to tell no man until after the crucifixion and resurrection, Verse 9.
- B. But after the resurrection they told it with great delight.
- C. They must have told it again and again.
- D. It never failed to fill their hearts with joy and hope.
 - 1. It would cause them to look forward with anticipation to the second coming of Jesus.
 - 2. If seeing the preview was this great, what must His second coming be like!
- E. It would never fail to inspire them to joyously take up their own crosses and follow Jesus.

Conclusion

- 1. The glory and power of the Lord will not benefit you one iota if you go into eternity unsaved. Rather It will strike fear and dread to your heart.
- 2. Only by trusting Jesus as your Savior will you benefit by His glory
- 3. Will you trust Him now?
- 4. Will you who are saved take up your cross and follow Him? Will you do it today?

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