

Matthew 17:4-9 God the Father Speaking Out For Jesus

Introduction: Peter James and John were up in a mountain with Jesus. There they had the privilege of seeing a preview of the glory of Christ that all will see later. Moses and Elijah were talking with Jesus.

I. The conversation between Jesus, Moses and Elijah

- A. Matthew does not tell us what they were talking about.
(He just says that they were talking), Verse 3.
- B. Luke tells us that they were discussing the death of Jesus, Luke 9:31.
 - 1. Moses had given the Law which typified the death of Jesus by animal sacrifices.
 - 2. Elijah, like all the prophets, was aware of Jesus' death.
- C. For them it must have been both a sad and a joyous conversation.

II. Peter's interruption

- A. Peter spoke up and interrupted, Verse 4.
- B. Seemingly he had missed the point of all that they had been saying about the death of Jesus.
 - 1. This may have been because he was still unwilling to accept the idea of Jesus' death.
See Matthew 16:22.
 - 2. It may have been because he was caught up in the glory of what he was seeing that he did not listen.
 - 3. But at any rate, he had heard their words, but he missed the point of what they said.
- C. Peter said, "Lord, it is so good for us to be here."
- D. He then proposed to build three tabernacles---one for Jesus, one for Moses and one for Elijah.
 - 1. He was not proposing that Moses and Elijah be worshiped.
 - 2. The kind of tabernacles he proposed to build were to live in. (Leaf huts like used in the wilderness wanderings and in the Feast of Tabernacles.)
 - 3. What he really was proposing was, "Let's stay here on the mountain and not go back down. Let's not go to Jerusalem and we will build each of you a private place to live."
- E. His suggestion did not set well at all with God.

III. God the Father's interruption of Peter

- A. God interrupted while Peter was still speaking, Verse 5.
- B. God the Father moved down in the form of a bright cloud and overshadowed (enveloped) Jesus, Moses and Elijah. (He closed them off from the sight of the disciples.)
- C. Then God said of Jesus, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well please; hear ye him."
 - 1. This is the second time that God has spoken audibly and acknowledged Jesus as His Son.
 - 2. God said, "I am well pleased with Him," indicating "Peter, I am not very well pleased with you and what you proposed."
 - 3. It was as if God said, "Peter, stop talking and listen to what Jesus has to say."

IV. The disciples on their faces and afraid

- A. When God appeared and spoke they fell down with great fear with their face to the ground, Verse 6.
 - 1. They didn't say a word and tried to lay very still.
 - 2. I think they were afraid God would kill them.
- B. They they heard footsteps coming toward them and a hand reached down and touched them, Verse 7.

C. Then a voice spoke and it was the voice of Jesus saying, "Be not afraid; be not afraid."

V. Lessons for us

A. Jesus is indeed the son of God.

B. If you haven't learned that already learn it now.

1. God has already spoken twice and said it.
2. It should not be necessary for Him to say it again.

C. Jesus Christ died at Calvary that guilty sinners might be saved.

1. This was the message of the Law sacrifices.
2. This was the message of the prophets of old.
3. This is the message of New Testament saints.

D. Today the name, the truths and the cause of Jesus is under heavy attack.

1. The television and movie industry is but one example of the heavy attack on Jesus.
2. But never fear; God still speaks for Him thru the Bible and thru the work of the Holy Spirit.

E. Jesus is worthy of being heard and believed.

F. Jesus is worthy of being obeyed.

Conclusion

1. Trust Jesus as your Savior.
2. Let Jesus be your Lord to direct your life.

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