

129. The Disciples See Jesus' Glory (Matthew 17:1-13)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You came to suffer and die to forgive us and give us glory in heaven forever. We thank You for Your gift. We thank You that You didn't avoid suffering, but You had courage and went to the cross. Please give us courage also, then we can live following You without fear. We pray in Your name. Amen.

Matthew 17:1-3. Jesus took Peter and the brothers James and John with Him. Jesus led them up a high mountain, only the four of them. Jesus changed in front of them. His face was bright like the sun. His clothes became white like light. Look! Moses and Elijah also appeared and talked with Jesus.

- Jesus went up a high mountain. Who did He take with Him? Did any other crowds of people follow them?
- What happened to Jesus? What did that say about who Jesus is?
- Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Jesus. Both of them were very important in the Old Testament. How was each one important?
- The story in Luke says Jesus talked with Moses and Elijah about His suffering and death. Why do you think they talked about that? You think Jesus needed encouragement sometimes, too?

Matthew 17:4. Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, we like this! If You want, I will make three tents. One tent for You, one for Moses, one for Elijah."

- What did the disciples think about what happened? What did Peter suggest?
- If you remember previous studies, Jesus recently told them He will soon suffer and die. Peter remembers Jesus will suffer, and Peter sees Jesus' glory here. Where does Peter want to be, with the glory or the suffering?

Matthew 17:5-6. Look! While Peter was speaking, a bright cloud came over them. A voice spoke from the cloud and said, "This is My Son. I love Him, and I am very pleased with Him. You listen to Him!" The disciples heard that and fell on the ground. They were very afraid.

- A voice came from the cloud and spoke to the disciples. Whose voice?
- Did God like Peter's suggestion to build three tents and stay there?
- Where did Jesus need to be to do His work? Shining in glory on a mountain, or going to die?

Matthew 17:7-9. Jesus came to the disciples and touched them. He said, "Get up, don't be afraid." The disciples looked around. They only saw Jesus, no one else. Jesus and the disciples came down the mountain. Jesus ordered them, "Don't tell anyone what you saw. After the Son of Man rises from the dead, then you can tell other people."

- Why do you think Jesus ordered the disciples to say nothing? What do you think would happen to Jesus if they did tell people?

Matthew 17:10-13. The disciples asked Jesus, "Then why do the Jewish teachers say Elijah must come first?" Jesus answered, "Elijah is coming, and he will fix everything. But I tell you the truth, Elijah already came. The Jewish teachers didn't recognize him. They abused him the way they wanted. The same, they will make the Son of Man to suffer." Then the disciples understood that Jesus was talking about John the Baptist.

- The disciples are confused. They saw Elijah. They know the Bible says Elijah must come before the Savior. But then Jesus said don't tell anyone you saw Elijah. Then Jesus explained the Elijah who came before Him is really... who?
- Does Jesus seem ready to go and die? Or is He afraid to go?