

## LESSON 12

## THE TRANSFIGURATION

JULY 22, 2020

## Healing the Demoniac Boy

Matthew 17:14-20; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43

## THE TRANSFIGURATION

□ MATTHEW 17:1-13; MARK 9:2-13; LUKE 9:28-36

Key lessons:

1. The glory and majesty of God!
2. The superiority of Jesus Christ to the Law and the prophets!
3. The need to listen and learn from Him!
4. The need to listen before we speak!
5. The need to transform ourselves so the Lord can transform our fleshly bodies (Philippians 3:20-21).

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Jesus tells them to *“tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.”* (Matthew 17:9; cf. Mark 9:9)

Mark records that the apostles *“seized upon that statement”* and began *“discussing with one another what rising from the dead meant.”* (Mark 9:10)

- Did they not understand the concept of resurrection from the dead? (Luke 7:11ff; 8:52ff)
- Or did they fail to understand how Jesus' resurrection aligned with their understanding of a fleshly kingdom?

They are once again *“alone”* with Jesus. (Matthew 17:8)

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At this point, *“His disciples asked Him, ‘Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?’”* (Matthew 17:10; Malachi 4:5)

- Jesus had already told them who Elijah was (Matthew 11:14) and once again reminds them that he *“already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.”* (verse 12)
- They had just seen Elijah and wrestled with how his conversation with Jesus and the pronouncement from heaven reconciled with the prophecy.

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*“Elijah does first come and restore all things. And yet how is it written of the Son of Man that He will suffer many things and be treated with contempt?”* (Mark 9:12-13; cf. Luke 1:17; Malachi 4:5-6)

The same prophets that spoke of Elijah to come also spoke of **the Messiah's suffering** (Psalms 22; Isaiah 53; Zechariah 13:7; Luke 24:25-26) as they did to John *“whatever they wished.”*

*“Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.”* (Matthew 17:13)

## HEALING THE DEMONIAC BOY

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When Jesus, Peter, James and John *“came back to the disciples they saw a large crowd around ...”* the other apostles, *“and some scribes arguing with them.”* (Mark 9:14)

The crowd ran up to greet Jesus *“amazed.”* (verse 15)

Jesus asked; *“What are you discussing (arguing about; ESV)?”* (verse 16)

*“One of the crowd answered ...”* regarding his son who was *“possessed with a spirit”* (Mark 9:17) and was *“a lunatic”* and *“very ill”* (Matthew 17:15).

Matthew (17:14) records that this man *“came up to Him, falling on his knees.”*

## HEALING THE DEMONIAK BOY

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This man continued:

- *“I told Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not do it.”* (Mark 9:18)
- *“I brought him ... and they could not cure him.”* (Matthew 17:16)
- *“I begged Your disciples ... and they could not.”* (Luke 9:40)

## HEALING THE DEMONIAK BOY

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Jesus' response:

*“O unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you?”* (Matthew 17:17; Luke 9:41) or *“... How long shall I put up with you?”* (Mark 9:19; cf. Numbers 14:11)

- *“Perverted”* – meaning corrupted and distorted. Strong adds “(figuratively) misinterpret.” (cf. Acts 13:8-10; 20:30; cf. 2 Peter 3:16)
- Vine says the word *“generation”* can mean:
  - “a race of people, **possessed of similar characteristics**, pursuits”
  - “The whole multitude of men living at the same time.”
- Who was Jesus describing as an *“unbelieving and perverted generation”*?

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**Who exhibited a lack of faith?**

**1. The apostles:**

- Later after the apostles privately asked why they couldn't cast out the demon, Jesus responded, *“Because of the littleness of your faith ...”* (Matthew 17:20)

**2. At least **this father** and perhaps others of the crowd who were of the same disposition.**

- We read the confession of this father in Mark 9:24, *“help my unbelief”*

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After Jesus' question about how long this had happened to the boy, the father declared: *“It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us.”* (Mark 9:22)

To which Jesus responds: *“If you can? All things are possible to him who believes.”* (verse 23)

What is therefore possible to the one who doesn't believe?

*“... that man ought not to expect anything from the Lord.”* (James 1:7)