

# HIS GLORY BRINGS *Joy*

'TIS THE REASON: THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW, PART 7 · MATTHEW 17:1-13 · NOVEMBER 28, 2021 · PASTOR MATT ERICKSON

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*"While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!'" (Matthew 17:5)*

## **A Vision of Glory** (Matthew 17:1-3)

Jesus and the three

Jesus' transfiguration

Jesus in conversation with Moses and Elijah (cf. Luke 9:31)

## **Glory Surpassing Human Comprehension** (Matthew 17:4-8)

Peter develops a plan

The divine interruption

Overwhelmed by the glory of the Lord

## **Elijah and the Messiah to Come** (Matthew 17:9-13)

The Messianic secret

Elijah who is to come and has come

## **Finding Joy in the Glory of Jesus**

Celebrate God's glory revealed in Jesus

Take joy in God's glory mingled with love and mercy in Jesus

Worship with awe before God's glory that surpasses human understanding

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the most glorious thing you have ever seen?
2. This week we continue our series, "'Tis the Reason", which mirrors the Advent journey by looking at Matthew 17:1-13. Begin your study in prayer by asking God to speak to you through the Scripture. Then, whether you're on your own or with others, read that passage aloud.
3. How would you describe this transfiguration of Jesus recorded in verses 1-3? What do you think this conveys about who Jesus is?
4. In the popular imagination of the time, both Moses and Elijah were viewed as figures linked with the coming of the Messiah. What would you say is the significance of their appearance with Jesus at His transfiguration?
5. As often happens, Peter speaks for the other disciples in verse 4. What do you make of his response to Jesus?
6. How would you have responded if you were there at the Transfiguration?
7. In an echo of Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:13-17), a divine voice speaks over Jesus at the transfiguration. What does the voice say and why is this important?
8. Why would the disciples fall to the ground? Why is it significant for them to hear Jesus' words dispelling fear?
9. In verses 9-13, Jesus and His disciples engage in a conversation about Elijah and the link with John the Baptist. What do you make of this conversation?
10. What is one thing God is speaking to you through this study? If you're on your own, write that down, pray over it, and share it with someone this week. If you are with a small group, share your answers with one another before closing in prayer.

## **DIG DEEPER:**

This week dig deeper in one or more of the following ways:

- Memorize Matthew 17:5
- Read the parallel accounts of the transfiguration in Mark 9:2-13 and Luke 9:28-36.
- Journal, draw, paint, or ink this episode of Jesus' transfiguration as a way to ponder the message more deeply.
- Explore works of art related to the Transfiguration at the Visual Commentary on Scripture: [thevcs.org/transfiguration-0](http://thevcs.org/transfiguration-0).
- Consider reading an article on the transfiguration
  - Ralph Allan Smith, "Jesus on Sinai": [theopolisinstitute.com/jesus-on-sinai/](http://theopolisinstitute.com/jesus-on-sinai/)
  - "N. T. Wright on the Transfiguration": [reformedreader.wordpress.com/2012/11/28/n-t-wright-on-the-transfiguration/](http://reformedreader.wordpress.com/2012/11/28/n-t-wright-on-the-transfiguration/)