**“The King’s Work: Look… and Listen!”**

**Matt. 16:28-17:13; Exodus 24:12-18; Rev. 1:10-19**

**(Notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 7/21/24)**

Have you ever had a mountaintop experience, a time when you felt especially close to God? (Q1) That type of experience encourages you, refreshes you, and helps you see more clearly what lies ahead. At the transfiguration (transformation), God graciously granted Peter, James, and John a glimpse of His Son’s glory. Theirs was the ultimate mountaintop experience! Glimpsing Christ in His glory changes us. It allows us to live the life He wants us to live. (Q2)

In Matt. 16 Christ made it clear that He would conquer sin **in** and **around** His people. (Q3) How? By going to the cross, being killed, and rising again on the third day. Then in Matt. 16:28, Jesus speaks of the transfiguration: a preview of the second coming of Christ. In today’s study, we will explore how this experience encouraged Jesus, how it helped His disciples, and how it can help us today.

You cannot have a face-to-face encounter with the living God and remain unchanged (Exodus 34:29). Christ glory is not a reflected glory; it is a glory He possesses Himself as God the Eternal Son. And when you have this encounter, LISTEN TO HIM! (Deut. 18:15). Jesus is lawgiver (God) and lawkeeper (Man), making Him the perfect mediator. He is also the perfect prophet… so LISTEN TO HIM!

The three disciples were terrified by God’s holy presence (Matt. 17:5-6). Then Jesus was encouraged by the Father’s words, just as He was about to make the final leg of His journey to the cross. Next, Jesus encouraged His disciples simply by His presence. The disciples went from terrified fear to reverential fear. The appearance of God left them awestruck. Christ’s fearsome glory reassures all whom He loves, all who know His favor. He only remains a terror to those who reject Him. Jesus will gather His elect to Himself, but He will also gather those who reject Him and send them to Hell (Rev. 14:14-19). John also wrote in 1John 4:17-18 that those in God’s family can have “confidence in the day of judgment.” Fear will be cast out! Hallelujah! Peter also wrote about this encounter that changed his life forever. His faith was made strong because he was an eyewitness to God’s glory there on that mountaintop (2Peter 1:16-18).

How shall we apply what we’ve heard today? Run to Scripture eager for a sight of Christ in His glory. Then you will be changed and enabled for His glory. Jesus’ voice, speaking by the Spirit from Scripture, is sufficient for every need of His disciples. Stay in His Word daily so you can keep your eyes constantly on Him. Remember that you’re not always on that mountaintop. Disciples live most of their days in valleys, where self is decreasing that Christ may be increasing. Remember that you are being transformed right now (2Corinth. 3:18). Disciples must hope in the glorious future Christ promises His people, no matter their feelings or their earthly experiences. Christ summons His followers to die to self, rest in Him as Savior, and live for Him as King. Some day soon we will see Him face to face in all of His glory!

**QUESTIONS**:

1. Tell us about YOUR mountaintop experience, when YOU felt especially close to God.
2. What becomes clear when you see Christ in all of His glory?
3. Which is worse: the sin in you or the sin around you? Explain.
4. According to the three passages at the top of page one, what happens when God’s people get a glimpse of His glory?
5. What does the transfiguration reveal about Jesus?
6. How do we listen to God?

**“I Stand Amazed “ (Gabriel)**

I stand amazed in the presence

Of Jesus the Nazarene,

And wonder how He could love me,

A sinner condemned, unclean.

**Refrain:**

**How marvelous! How wonderful!**

**And my song shall ever be:**

**How marvelous! How wonderful!**

**Is my Savior’s love for me!**

He took my sins and my sorrows,

He made them His very own;

He bore the burden to Calv’ry,

And suffered, and died alone.

When with the ransomed in glory

His face I at last shall see,

’Twill be my joy through the ages

To sing of His love for me.