

I wonder if you can picture this scene

- What were the three thinking as they followed Jesus up the mountain? (Peter had to be nervous)
- Jesus **transfigured** (transformed into something more glorious) (Antonym = disfigure)
 - "His face shone like the sun" and "His clothes became white as light" (verse 2)
 - Cf. Rev 1:16 = "His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance"
 - Perception and view of Jesus ☉ clouded or foggy
- Peter wants to **camp out** there (**tents**) (Cf. Mark 9:6)
 - God interrupts Peter ("while he was still speaking..." in v. 5)
 - And God pitches **a bigger tent** than Peter proposed and **covers them all**—the **glory cloud** (v. 5)
 - And, for the second time, makes the defining statement about Jesus...

What are we to make of all this? What's really going on here?

Hint: "After about six days"

- Time links like this are not common in Matthew
 - Usually a geographic transition
 - Why this inclusion? What is Matthew hinting at?
 - **Exodus 24:12, 15-18a**, NIV
 - Matthew is grounding this story in the bigger story (Cf. "cloud" in **verse 5**)
 - Matthew is connecting the glory of Jesus with the glory of the God of Israel
- About the Glory of God: **Exodus 33:12-23**, NIV
 - See how this connects to Jesus as the revelation of God on earth:
 - **John 1:14 & 18**; NIV
 - Look how Jesus represents the **New Exodus (delivery from Sin)**
 - And we get to be the full beneficiaries of **Moses' desire that God go with Him**
 - **Matthew 28:16-20**, NLT
 - All of this is threads of the story coming together

The general gist or grand theme that emerges in this event is that Jesus is the crux of the story of Scripture

Verse 3 = **there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.**

- **Moses and Elijah** are the dudes!
 - **Mo** and **Eli** represent the Law and Prophets (OT) -- And **Jesus** represents their **fulfillment**
 - The Old and New Covenant relationship (shaking hands)
 - **Jesus' relation to Moses:** Jesus fulfills the Law for us. He is our substitute. We now have a righteous standard and forgiveness. (**Romans 8:1-4**, NLT)
 - **Jesus to Elijah:** Jesus is the full prophetic revelation of God. He exegetes Him. We can now know something of God and actually know God Himself. (**Hebrews 1:1-5**, NASB)
- There is an **echo** of what God said on the mountain in **verse 5**
 - "Listen to Him..." (**2 Peter 1:16-21**, NLT)

Here, God gave the disciples of supreme and glorious moment of clarity

- (About Jesus and His supremacy) (View of Jesus ☉ clouded or foggy)
- A "**Mountain Top Experience**"
 - We need those. We long for those.
 - Peter wanted to make camp ("It is good for us to be here") (v. 4)
 - In a way, we have that always (He is always with us)
 - But, we also long for these sort of glorious moment where we see Jesus (and life) clearly
 - A moment in the presence of God...
 - The Second Set (The purpose of it)
 - Camp out there

Those moments are precious (and we ought to cultivate them)

- The mountain top experience doesn't last long enough (Peter did not get his campfire wishes)
- They would descend into the valley (the hard reality of the challenges of life)
 - There, they would fail, lack faith, let themselves and others down, and have to learn
 - That is life: Mountain top experiences and valley trials
 - Fruit is grown in the valley
 - Peter would later say **about the valleys** (suffering)... **1 Peter 5:10**, NIV

In fact, the story of Jesus did not end with the mountain top glory—but would also include the glory of the Cross

- **Verses 22-23**
- The story was not over at the mountain top
 - = Why Jesus told them **not to tell anyone** until after the resurrection (**verse 9**)
 - The story always involves the cross (Cf. See **16:24-27**)

But, don't forget, Jesus is risen from the dead and with us always

- And He has reconciled us to God
- So, we now actually live in a perpetual state of glory of sorts
 - **Exodus 34:29-30**, NIV
 - Turn to: **2 Corinthians 3:7-18**, NIV

We are not like **Peter, James and John who almost camped with Jesus**

- We actually have Jesus camped out with us
- **Christ in us, the hope of glory...** (Colossians 1:27)
- **And we are being transformed into His image with ever increasing glory** (2 Cor 3:18)