

The Greatness of Jesus

MPPC Life in the Kingdom home group handout for February 19, 2009

The Transfiguration

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(Mt 17.1—8; Mk 9.2—8; 2 Pet 1.16—18)

Luke 9:28 Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus^f took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake,^g they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings,^h one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen;ⁱ listen to him!” ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.¹

Eyewitnesses of Christ's Glory

(Mt 17.5; Mk 9.7; Lk 9.35)

² Peter 1:16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved,^j with whom I am well pleased.” ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.²

From <http://www.journeywithjesus.net/Essays/20090216JJ.shtml>:

“The transfiguration of Jesus belies the ways we dilute the stringent wine of the Gospel. The blinding light and voices from the clouds challenge faith that has turned tepid, perfunctory, bored and boring. In her book *Teaching a Stone to Talk*, Annie Dillard thus asks:

‘Does anyone have the foggiest idea of what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets! Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews! For the sleeping God may awake someday and take offense, or the waking God may draw us to where we can never return.’ ”

^f Gk *he*

^g Or *but when they were fully awake*

^h Or *tents*

ⁱ Other ancient authorities read *my Beloved*

¹ *The Holy Bible : New Revised Standard Version*. 1989 (Lk 9:28-36). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

^j Other ancient authorities read *my beloved Son*

² *The Holy Bible : New Revised Standard Version*. 1989 (2 Pe 1:16-18). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Greater Than the Kings of the Earth

Psalm 110

¹Jehovah saith unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, Until I make thine enemies thy footstool. ²Jehovah will send forth the rod of thy strength out of Zion: Rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. ³Thy people offer themselves willingly In the day of thy power, in holy array: Out of the womb of the morning Thou hast the dew of thy youth. ⁴Jehovah hath sworn, and will not repent: Thou art a priest for ever After the order of Melchizedek. ⁵The Lord at thy right hand Will strike through kings in the day of his wrath. ⁶He will judge among the nations, He will fill *the places* with dead bodies; He will strike through the head in many countries. ⁷He will drink of the brook in the way: Therefore will he lift up the head. ³

Christ Comes First

The Supremacy of Christ (Cp Jn 1.1—5)

Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in^h him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and inⁱ him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. ⁴

Christ's Humility

Imitating Christ's Humility

Phil. 2:1 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was^a in Christ Jesus, ⁵

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,

³*American Standard Version*. 1995 (Ps 110:1). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

^h Or by

ⁱ Or by

⁴*The Holy Bible : New Revised Standard Version*. 1989 (Col 1:15-20). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

^a Or that you have

⁵*The Holy Bible : New Revised Standard Version*. 1989 (Php 2:1-5). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

8 he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
9 Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
10 so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. ⁶

The Great Commission

The Commissioning of the Disciples

(Mk 16.14—18; Lk 24.36—49; Jn 20.19—23; Acts 1.6—8)

^{Matt 28:16} Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”^d

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⁶*The Holy Bible : New Revised Standard Version*. 1989 (Php 2:6-11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

^dOther ancient authorities add *Amen*

⁷*The Holy Bible : New Revised Standard Version*. 1989 (Mt 28:16-20). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.