

**Matthew 17:1-13**  
***Mountain Top Experience***  
November 24, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

**Intro** –

**2 Peter 1:13-14** - It's only right that I should keep on reminding you as long as I live. For our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me that I must soon leave this earthly life.

**2 Peter 1:16** - We didn't follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were *eyewitnesses of His majesty*.

**2 Peter 1:17-18** - For He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I'm well pleased.” And we ourselves heard this voice from heaven *when we were with Him on the holy mountain*.

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**1. Jesus' Transfiguration**

**v.1** - Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

**Hark the Herald Angels.**

*Verse 2 –*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.*

*Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Immanuel.*

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**Exodus 33:21-23** - The LORD said, "There's a place near Me where you may stand on a rock. When My glory passes by, I'll put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with My hand until I've passed by. Then I'll remove My hand and you'll see My back.

Timothy Keller:

Have you ever had an experience when the compassion and love of another person helped you deal with your suffering? When someone's unconditional approval and encouragement transformed your fear into resolve? When an encounter with beauty seemed to neutralize your anxiety and give you hope?

If you got that kind of help more often, wouldn't you be different? Wouldn't trouble make you wiser, deeper and stronger instead of bitter, hard, and joyless? Wouldn't suffering make you more compassionate, rather than more cynical? Wouldn't failure be more productive in your life? Of course it would!

But here's the question: How are you going to get more of that kind of approval, that kind of encouragement, that kind of love, without burning out your friends and your family with your neediness?

The answer is worship. You must have access to the very presence of God. You have to see clearly in your mind what God has done and is doing through Jesus. You have to experience foretastes of the embrace that God is going to give you someday.

**2 Corinthians 3:18** - We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being *transformed* into His image.

**Romans 12:2** - Don't be conformed to this world, but be *transformed* by the renewing of your mind.

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## **2. Moses and Elijah's Appearance**

**v.3** - And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

**2 Kings 2:11** - As they were walking along and talking, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and *Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.*

**Deuteronomy 34:5-6** - So Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, just as the LORD had said. *The LORD buried him* in a valley near Beth Peor in Moab, and to this day no one knows the exact place.

**Luke 9:30-31** - Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about *His exodus from this world,* which He was about to bring to *fulfillment* in Jerusalem.

"Don't think that I've come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I haven't come to abolish them but to *fulfill* them." (**Mt.5:17**)

**Isaiah 53** - He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities... He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

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## **3. Peter's Proposal**

**v.4** - Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it's good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

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**John 16:22** - "I'll see you again and you'll rejoice, and *no one will take away your joy.*"

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### **4. The Father's Command**

**v.5** - While Peter was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I'm well pleased. Hear Him!"

**v.6** - When the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and don't be afraid." When they'd lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but *Jesus only.*

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### **5. The Disciple's Question**

**v.10** - His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"

**Malachi 4:5** - See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you *before* the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

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**v.11** - Jesus answered and said to them, “Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they didn't know him but did to him whatever they wished.

**Revelation 11** - "I'll give power to my two witnesses, and they'll prophesy 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth. These men have power to shut up the sky so that it won't rain during the time they're prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.”

**Jesus concludes:** *Likewise* the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.” Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.

*In the future, Elijah's coming will indicate that the Lord is coming. Right now, Elijah's execution indicates that the Lord will be executed.*

### **Conclusion**

- 1. You need a glimpse of God...**
- 2. You need to be changed...**
- 3. Keep your eyes on Christ and listen to Him**

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