

No Regrets

Matthew 17:1-13

Now will be then

Later is coming and right now will then be then. And we will look back and say I wish I had known then what I know now. Oh how I would have lived differently had I only realized.

But we can live life with no regrets. Generally when we hear someone speaking of living with no regrets they are speaking of making sure they do everything they really want to do in life, so that they will not one day look back and say, I should have done that but now it is too late. I was afraid and I should have jumped.

But living with no regrets is a bit tougher – it is about more than just great life experiences, though we want that.

Had I known – well God gives us a preview!

The Glory of Christ – A Preview

Later Peter will write of this experience and speak of beholding the majesty of Jesus on this mountain. He beheld the glory of Jesus.

It was a preview of what is to come later – we will all see Jesus in his glory and bow down to him.

2 Peter 1 –Whenever Peter thinks of the transfiguration he thinks of Jesus in all his glory and Jesus coming again.

I. Worship Him

Jesus is Majestic (“We beheld his majesty”)

- Jesus actual physical appearance was altered right before them
- Jesus was transfigured. The Greek word is the word from which we get our word “metamorphosis”.
- His face shone like the sun.
- His clothes became white as light.
- The disciples saw the glory of God in the physical!

Illustration: Exodus 33 and 34 where Moses asks to see the glory of God

Exodus 34:5-8 ESV

5 The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

6 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,

7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

8 And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.

Jesus is Unequaled

Mark tells us (9:6) that they were terrified and did not know what to say. This perhaps helps us understand Peter’s suggestion to build three tents.

- Was it some reference to the Feast of Tabernacles – when Israel would build small booths out of branches and celebrate God delivering them out of the wilderness?
- Or was it a plea to build little tabernacles, suggesting that that this was a place of meeting with God?
- In some way or another it was clearly a gesture of reverence for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. But it was totally inappropriate. Peter was seeing Jesus as “even equal” with these great figures, but in reality Jesus was and is much, much more.
- Jesus is the Son of God.
- And so Peter cannot even get his words out before he is interrupted by a voice from heaven declaring that Jesus is God’s Son.

Jesus is the Fulfillment

So, what was the significance of Moses and Elijah being present? Clearly, they are giving witness to Jesus as the fulfillment of their respective ministries. Jesus is the Messiah, the one promised. He fulfills the law and the prophets.

Worship is a matter of the heart – What do you want?!

“The first thing my soul needs is an *inclination toward God* and his Word. Without that, nothing else will happen of any value in my life. I must *want* to know God and read his Word and draw near to him. Where does that ‘want to’ come from? It comes from God. So Psalm 119:36 teaches us to pray, *‘Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!’* Very simply we ask God to take our hearts, which are more inclined to breakfast and the newspaper, and change that inclination. We are asking that God create desires that are not there.” (John Piper)

Fellowship

“Worship is the triune God inviting us to share in the fellowship and joy he has known from eternity past.” (Bob Kauflin)

II. Obey Him

Listen to Him! The word of God is to be heeded. He is to be obeyed.

Don't be surprised that this immediately follows as we are invited into the fellowship of the Godhead. There is no worshipping God and no beholding God for any length of time apart from a determined commitment to obey him.

He is God. He shows himself only to those determined to obey him.

John 14:21 ESV

21 *Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”*

III. Trust Him

The disciples are still trying to figure this thing out as they are coming down the mountain. They are asking ‘what just happened?’

Jesus tells them – don't tell anyone until the Son of Man is raised from the dead!

Back and forth

- Jesus is the Christ – Matt 16 – the great confession
- Get behind me Satan – the teaching of the cross
- 6 days later they go up the mountain – Jesus is transfigured and they see his glory
- No sooner headed down than the cross comes again into the picture – They will do to me what they did to John the Baptist.

They are headed down the mountain and now they are trying to figure it all out. The Scribes say Elijah must come first. Are they right? Yes they are! But we just saw Elijah. Is that what they mean when they say he must come first? Did we just witness it – no that can't be it. Oh, but he did come and in the person of John the Baptist and they killed him.

They just simply could not reconcile these two things in their mind: glory of the Messiah and the cross.

Here is the message: Trust in Jesus.