

STUDYING THE BOOK OF MATTHEW
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 69 - The Transfiguration - Matthew 17:1-13

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

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MT 17:1 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. [2] There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. [3] Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

MT 17:4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

MT 17:5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

MT 17:6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. [7] But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." [8] When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

MT 17:9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

MT 17:10 The disciples asked him, "Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"

MT 17:11 Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. [12] But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." [13] Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 69 - The Transfiguration - Matthew 17:1-13

828. How much time elapsed between Christ's prediction of his death and the Transfiguration? (17:1)

829. Which three disciples were with Christ on the mountain? (17:1)

830. Where did Christ and his three disciples go? (17:1)

831. What happened to Christ on the mountain? (17:2)
832. Who else appeared and began talking to Jesus? (17:3)
833. What did Peter volunteer to do? (17:4)
834. What do you think prompted Peter to say he would build shelters? ([17:4](#))
835. What happened while Peter was speaking? (17:5)
836. How did the disciples react when God spoke out of the cloud? (17:6)
837. Who calmed down the disciples? (17:7)
838. What did Jesus say to the disciples as they departed? (17:9)
839. What question did the disciples ask Jesus? (17:10)
840. How did Jesus answer the disciples? (17:11-12)
841. What did the disciples learn about John the Baptist? (17:13)

Lesson 70 - The Healing of a Boy With a Demon - Matthew 17:14-23

MT 17:14 When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. [15] "Lord, have mercy on my son," he said. "He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. [16] I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him."

MT 17:17 "O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me." [18] Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed from that moment.

MT 17:19 Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

MT 17:20 He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. "

MT 17:22 When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. [23] They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life." And the disciples were filled with grief.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 70 - The Healing of a Boy With a Demon - Matthew 17:14-23

842. When Jesus returned with Peter, James, and John from the scene of the Transfiguration, what did he find? (17:14)
843. Who approached Jesus? How? (17:14)
844. What did the man who approached Jesus say? (17:15)
845. How did the man describe his child's situation? (17:15)
846. Who had already been unable to help the man's son? (17:16)
847. What reply did Jesus give when the man said Jesus' disciples had been unable to help? (17:17)
848. How did Jesus resolve the problem presented to Him? (17:17-18)
849. What question did the disciples ask Jesus? When? (17:19)
850. How did Jesus answer his disciples' question? (17:20)
851. What did Jesus say is the answer to the impossible? (17:20)
852. What spiritual disciplines did Jesus recommend for confronting serious obstacles? (17:21)
853. What sober subject did Jesus again bring up when the disciples came together in Galilee? (17:22-23)
854. Why do you think Jesus was upset by His disciples' lack of faith?

Lesson 71. - The Temple Tax - Matthew 17:24-27

MT 17:24 After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax*?"

MT 17:25 "Yes, he does," he replied.

When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes--from their own sons or from others?"

MT 17:26 "From others," Peter answered.

"Then the sons are exempt," Jesus said to him. [27] "But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 71. - The Temple Tax - Matthew 17:24-27

855. When did Jesus and His disciples speak with the tax collectors? (17:24)
856. Whom did Jesus and His disciples encounter upon their arrival in Capernaum? (17:24)
857. What question did the tax collectors ask Peter? (17:24)
858. How did Peter respond to the tax collectors' questions? (17:25)
859. Who spoke to Peter first when Peter entered the house? Why? (17:25)
860. What tax question did Jesus ask Peter? (17:25)
861. How did Peter answer Jesus? (17:26)
862. What did Jesus say about the obligation to pay taxes? (17:26)
863. Why did Jesus agree to pay the temple tax? (17:27)
864. What unusual directions did Jesus give Peter for coming up with the money to pay the temple tax? (17:27)
865. How do God's laws and human laws fit together?
866. In what ways (if any) are Christians "above the law"?