

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2014

**THEME: TRANSFORMING PERSONAL ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS**

**As we Gather**

Everything Jesus did and said was within the will of the Father. Now on His way to Jerusalem and the Cross, Jesus needed to ascertain that what He was about to do was indeed within the will of God. He also needed to ensure that His disciples would have a better understanding of who He is. Just as the whole Gospel of Matthew is about Jesus as King, so chapter 17 is all about the Glory of the King. [Compare Matthew 17:1-21 with Luke 9:28-45]

**Reading Scripture      MATTHEW 17 : 1 – 21**

**Thinking together**

About a week after Jesus had spoken to His disciples about His death and resurrection, He took His three closest companions – Peter, James and John – with Him when He went up into the mountain to pray.

His transfiguration / transformation/ metamorphosis was an outward manifestation / revelation coming from inside as His Glory radiated outwards (Hebrews 1:3). This brief glimpse of the Glory of the King was divine affirmation of all Jesus had done and was about to do (Matthew 17:3 and Luke 9:30-31).

**How do we know from this reading that this was confirmation of Jesus as Messiah?**

**Discuss**

The Transfiguration reveals four aspects of Jesus Christ the King (Matthew 17:1-13)

- The Glory of His person. This was the only time recorded of Jesus revealing His glory this way while on earth.

Peter's faith was strengthened as this event followed his confession of faith.

**What do you feel as you read this story? Discuss**

When we surrender ourselves to God, He will transform our minds as we yield to the Spirit of God (Romans 12:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 3:18).

**In what ways have you been transformed? Discuss**

- The Glory of His Kingdom. The three disciples of the inner circle were chosen to witness the 'Son of man coming in His Kingdom'. Jesus had been teaching His disciples of what was to come (Matthew 16:28), and that He was victor over death (Luke 8:51). Now the transfiguration taught them that He was glorified in death (Matthew 26:37 Luke 24:27 and Hebrews 1:1-2).

Peter caught the message and was never to forget (Matthew 17:5 and 2 Peter 1:12-15).

**Do you believe disciples today will see Christ in His Kingdom on earth? Discuss**  
**(see also Revelation 19:11 – 20:6)**

- The Glory of His Cross. Christ's disciples had / have to learn that suffering and glory go together (1Peter 1:6-12).

For the believer, death is an exodus (release) from the bondage of this life (Galatians 1:3-5)

**How do you bear / carry your cross? Discuss**

- The Glory of His submission. Christ's philosophy was 'yield yourself to God'.

Peter learned two lessons from his mountain experience – there is a time for action, and there is a time for stillness and reverence (Matthew 17:4-6 and Psalm 46:10).

**What is the purpose of stillness, prayer and reverence in a disciple's life? Discuss**

**Why do you think Jesus did not want the three disciples to tell the others of what they had experienced? Discuss** (see Matthew 17:9-13)

Matthew 17:14-21 reveals the Glory of the King in His Power.

Jesus and the disciples descended from their mountain experience into the demands of those in need – the distraught father and the helpless disciples. Jesus' first reaction was sorrow (Matthew 17:16-17 and Luke 9:40-41).

**What do you think Jesus feels when He looks at us today? Discuss**

The disciples had been given power and authority (Matthew 10:1 + 8), but in this instance they failed; when the crisis came they were unprepared.

**Why do you think this happened? Discuss**

**What role do faith, prayer, and spiritual discipline play in our lives and ministries? Discuss**  
(Matthew 17:20 and Mark 9:29)

**In Closing**

Faith needs to be cultivated (1 Thessalonians 3:10 and 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4). When we release our faith to God (put it into action), it takes on the nature of a miracle in the making. (See Romans 12:3 Romans 10:17 and Matthew 17:20)

**What is the mountain in your life?**