

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Nineteen

THE MINISTRY OF REVELATION (2): THE LORD'S TRANSFIGURATION

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see that after following the Lord Jesus for three years, knowing Him as the perfect Son of Man and seeing His divine power as the Son of God in performing miracles, one day the Lord Jesus revealed Himself to three of His Apostles in the transcendence of His divine glory. The Father's declaration, "This is My beloved Son; hear Him," reveals to us that there is only one Person in the whole universe who is God's unique expression and representative, the Lord Jesus Christ. We must realize who He is, believe in Him, "hear," obey, and follow Him.

Memory Verse: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I delight; hear Him! (Matthew 17:5).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Matt. 16:28--17:9]

1. The Lord Jesus walked with His disciples for 3 1/2 years before He was crucified and resurrected. They mainly knew Him as the Son of Man; the most wonderful Man they had ever met, a perfect Man, a God-Man. They saw His unblemished human virtues of love, patience, compassion, mercy, humility, etc. day by day.

2. On many occasions the Lord revealed to His disciples His divine attributes. That is, He allowed them to realize that He was not only a perfect Man, but He was also the Son of God and had the power of God. They saw Him do things that men cannot do. Only God can heal sicknesses, raise the dead, turn water into wine, walk on the sea, still the storm, cast out demons, feed 5,000 with five loaves and two fish, etc.

3. Although the Lord revealed Himself as God to His disciples through the many miracles He performed, yet He was always in the appearance of an ordinary man (before His resurrection, except for the one time when He was transfigured before Peter, James, and John). This glorious event is so important it is recorded in three of the Gospels.

- a. Before the Lord Jesus went to the cross He wanted three of His Apostles to see Him in the glory of His kingdom.
- b. Having brought Peter, James, and John with Him to a high mountain, the Lord Jesus was praying. His disciples grew tired and fell asleep. The Lord was suddenly transfigured before them. We cannot imagine very well what that was like, for we have never seen such a thing. But the Bible tells us that "His face shone as the sun," which is the brightest light on the earth. Also, His garments became "white as light" (Matt. 17:2). The disciples awoke and were shocked and terrified (Mark 9:6). They were beholding the Lord Jesus in His glory.

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Lesson Nineteen (Continued)

- c. The greatest two men of the Old Testament, Moses and Elijah, also appeared in glory and were talking with the Lord.
- d. Peter, not knowing what to say, said, "Let us make three tabernacles: one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." This would be to equally honor all three of them.
- e. While Peter was still speaking such nonsense, God the Father immediately adjusted Him. Overshadowing them in a bright cloud He said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I delight; hear Him!"
- f. By this the Father was telling the disciples, "The Lord Jesus is not like Moses or Elijah! He is not just another man of God! He is the very Son of God! Yes, once you lived under the law of Moses, but now that the Lord Jesus has come you must live by Him and by His speaking. Hear Him!"
- g. When the disciples heard this they fell to the ground on their faces, exceedingly afraid. The Lord Jesus touched them saying, "Arise, do not fear." By this we see that although He is the unique, glorious Son of God, He does not want us to live in fear of Him, but to love Him, hear His voice, and follow Him.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON NINETEEN

1. How did the Lord look when He was transfigured? (Matt. 17:2)
2. With whom was the Lord talking during His transfiguration? (Matt. 17:3) _____ and _____
3. Why did the Father interrupt Peter's suggestion in Matthew 17:4-5?
4. Who is the Lord Jesus? (Matt. 17:5)
5. Once we realize who the Lord Jesus is, what should we do? (Matt. 17:5)