

# A Glimpse of Glory, A Faulty Faith, and Humble Greatness

Luke 9:27-50

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<https://margmowczko.com/making-sense-of-the-transfiguration/>

# A **Sneak-peak** into the Kingdom of God

- Prophesied 8 days before: “Some would see the kingdom of God” before they tasted death
  - Namely: Peter, James, John

# Church of the Transfiguration – Mt Tabor



# Mount Hermon



# A Sneak-peak into the Kingdom of God

- Prophesied 8 days before: “Some would see the kingdom of God” before they tasted death
  - Namely: Peter, James, John
- Transfigured == from “μεταμορφώω”  
(**metamorphosis**)
  - Face **different** like the **sun**
  - Clothes as white as light, gleaming == “**emitting light**”, as no launderer could brighten

# A Sneak-peak into the Kingdom of God

- Accompanied by Moses and Elijah
  - These two men figuratively represented the whole of the Old Testament – the Law and the Prophets
  - These two men had both **already seen** Christ's glory
  - These two men both had unusual **departures**
  - These two men **certified** this discussion “By two or more witnesses, shall every fact be established”

# A Sneak-peak into the Kingdom of God

- Peter interrupts the conversation with a misplaced statement – what was he thinking?
  - The fulfillment?
    - Of Jesus' prophecy 8 days before – some shall see the Kingdom of God
  - The timing?
    - During the Feast of Tabernacles – celebrating the Exodus of Israel
  - The company?
    - Elijah was associated with Jesus' coming
  - The discomfort?
    - Still not accepting Lk 9:22 regarding Jesus would die (see 9:45)

# A Sneak-peak into the Kingdom of God

- The Father interrupts Peter with the arrival of the **Shekinah** Glory cloud
  - The Father distinguishes His Son to clearly state there is no equal
- This event was kept a secret because...?
  - People were not ready to accept it
  - The Romans would have feared an insurrection
  - Some Jews would have sought to make Jesus an earthly king
  - \*Preaching Christ glorified required his death & resurrection – the disciples didn't understand this yet



# The **Significance** of Faith and Prayer

- The setting of this event
  - A desperate father and a demon possessed son
  - Commissioned disciples unable to complete a task
- The telling rebuke of Jesus – “you unbelieving and perverted generation”
  - Faith must not confuse God’s willingness with God’s ability
  - Faith must be fixed on the one who is truly able, not the one believing
  - Faith’s inseparable partner, is prayer

# The **Statement** of His Death Concealed

- Concealed on **purpose**
  - To be understood at a later date
- To counter **pre-dispositions**
  - Israel's misunderstanding of the Messiah's means
- To counter **previous events**
  - Jesus' demonstrated power over death and creation
- Due to their own **fear** and grief

# The **Sign** of True Greatness is Humility

- Humility is demonstrated by compassionately receiving the **littlest**, the **least**, and the **last**
  - Greatness is measured by the the **lack** of pride
  - Greatness is measured by how well the One who is truly great shines through your **emptiness**
- Humility is demonstrated by seeing oneself as only one part of a team of **many**
  - Greatness is no partner with **provincialism**
  - Greatness seeks the Lord's reward, not the world's
  - Greatness recognizes that causing others to sin is a fatal flaw

# Application

- The transfiguration is a believer's proof that our hope in our future in heaven and its glory is very real and beyond anything we can comprehend or imagine. Therefore, we should take courage in our daily trials to keep the faith and encourage our fellow brethren.
- The basis of our faith is in our God's abilities not our being one of his chosen. Therefore, our prayer can be backed with even greater faith because our God is great. We must simply be patient with his willingness to answer as he may wish to reveal it.
- True greatness is in seeing the whole and what little part of it we really are as individuals. Being humble demonstrates of how truly great our God is as he lives through us to do great things in his name.