

Introduction:

- Matthew has made no secret of his own view that in Jesus the purposes of God declared in the OT have now come to their fulfillment. This has been demonstrated throughout the opening four chapters of the gospel. Matthew has used the actual term “Messiah” sparingly (but decisively in 1:1, 16-18), but the idea underlying it has been richly elaborated. But Jesus has not used that title, leaving both crowds and disciples to draw their own conclusions from the unique “authority” which has so often evoked their “amazement”.
- In Mt 16:16 Peter has declared you are the Christ, Son of the Living God. And Jesus has declared, “tell no one”. Then tries to get Jesus to not go to the cross and hugely rebuked by Jesus.
- Matthew finishes the chapter with vs 28 with Son of Man language.
- This sets up the next chapter.

I. Show Me Your Glory

- A. Jesus identity as the Son of God is first declared in 3:17 at His baptism. Now it is reiterated once again. The Father affirms the Son before His ministry begins and here He affirms His Son before the passion begins. Three things confirm Jesus as the Christ.
 1. The transformation - he is more than a teacher. Gr. Metamorphosis complete change to something different. Jesus reveals a temporarily glorified body.
 2. His association with Moses and Elijah demonstrate his messianic role.
 3. The declaration from heaven declares His identity as the Son of God.
- B. Jesus takes His key disciples (Peter James and John) with Him to the mountain to enhance their understanding that He is the Christ. It is critical that they get this! It is critical to Matthew that his readers understand this as well.
 1. To be known as the Son of Man is a powerful declaration of Jesus by himself. To say that He will come with His glory is also a huge statement of who He is. To say, I will suffer, die, and rise again is overwhelming. Jesus wants them to connect their reality with His glory.
 2. Jesus takes them to a mountain six days later. There they watch Jesus transform/morph! His face and clothes become white like light. It is a transformation. *“Moses shone for a time with a reflection of the divine glory he had seen; Jesus shone with his own heavenly glory.”* NICNT Mt. Ex 34:29-ff.
- C. Moses and Elijah appear with Him.
 1. Both are men of God whose earthly life ended in a supernatural way.
 - a) Elijah was taken to heaven 2 Kings 2:11.
 - b) Moses disappearance is surrounded by mystery on Mt Nebo.
 2. What these two men represent is the coming of the Messianic age. Their conversation with Jesus marks Jesus out all the more clearly as the Messiah who comes as the climax of their tale in scripture.
 3. Their presence plays an eschatological role in Jewish history so to show up here is a ‘big deal’ to these three disciples. That is what prompts their question in vs 10.
- D. Peter speaks out and the Father speaks down.
 1. Matthew does not point out Peters ‘stupid remark’. Mark and Luke do, “Not knowing what he was saying...) Peter spoke out.

2. God's response was to shine brighter, affirm His Son and tell the three "Listen to Him." You can go back now to chapter 16 the whole point of the chapter was to introduce the shift in the book of Mt. by declaring Jesus to be the Christ, the Son of the Living God. But they still did not understand. Now they are seeing the glory but still do not understand. So God simply says, "Listen to Him!" God must have said it in such a way that they were terrified and fell face down on the ground.
3. What is God wanting them to hear???
 - a) Son of Man will suffer.
 - b) Son of Man will die.
 - c) Son of Man will rise.
 - d) It also set Jesus apart as in a different category of even the greatest of God's OT servants. *"Look at my servant, whom I strengthen. He is my chosen one, who pleases me. I have put my Spirit upon him. He will bring justice to the nations."* (Isaiah 42:1, NLT)
4. Look how this section now ends. vs. 8 *"They saw only Jesus"* Everything returns to normal! "Now the true Messiah, to whose coming they (Elijah and Moses) pointed forward, remains in possession of the stage. But his mission will be accomplished not in heavenly glory but in the normal conditions of earthly life!" NICNT Mt.

II. Back Down the Mountain 9-13

- A. This section serves to connect the glory and the suffer and death of Jesus. It begins to reveal or unpack the mountain top experience.
 1. Don't tell anyone...until the Son of Man has been raised.
 2. The Paradox of the death and resurrection still remains.
 3. Their question of Elijah is once again answered by Jesus in such a way that they know the kind of death JTB suffered as a prophet will also come to the Son of Man.
- B. At the foot of the mountain
 1. We are now back to reality. Vacation is over time to face issues!
 2. Matthew brings in the issue of lack of faith. This is not just a passage so we learn to have the faith to do deliverance. It is that. But we must see also that Matthew the writer is showing how much the message of "Listen to Him!" is important.
 3. It only take a little bit of faith.
 4. They gather in Galilee. Jesus predicts his suffering, death and rising from the dead. And they are sad. They cant rejoice about the rising. They can't see it.

III. Paying Taxes

- A. This brings us back to reality again.
- B. And also to faith.

Conclusion:

- Chapters 16 and 17 fit together in that 16 declares who Jesus is and 17 demonstrates it as to what He is in his glory.
- And that glory is where he is returning.