

WELCOME TO SOUTHLAND!

August 29, 2021

Matthew 17-18 (Pt 12) The Leading Questions

A. The transformation?:

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. 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." ⁵ While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" 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. 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." ¹⁰ The disciples asked him, "Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?" 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.

1. Transfigured and transformed are translated from the same Greek word. The difference in usage is whether the change has been brought about by external force or internal (Jesus).
2. Transfiguration Learnings:
 - a. It marks the culmination of the Old Testament but Jesus is not done.
 - b. We always must listen to what Jesus says first.
 - c. The disciples could see and hear the three men meaning there is a heaven and eternal life and we will be able to recognize one another.
 - d. Moses dream of reaching the Promised Land is finally realized.
3. Disciple's progress:
 - a. They're not terrified this time until they hear God's voice.
 - b. In asking why Elijah hasn't come first they indirectly acknowledge that Jesus is the Messiah once again.

B. The Faith?:

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." ¹⁷ "You 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 at that moment. ¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" ²⁰ He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, 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."

1. Faith is not something in and of itself.
2. Faith is not determined by its quantity but where we place our faith. It's the object of our faith that matters because even mustard seed size faith in Jesus is enough to move the mountains in your life.
3. We need to have place our faith in a great big God to get big results for with Him nothing is impossible.

C. The Greatest?:

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. ³ And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

1. Humility means:
 - a. Dependence
 - b. Change

D. The Forgiveness?:

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."^[9]

²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold^[10] was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.^[11] He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' ³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ *"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."*

1. Secrets of real Forgiveness:

- a. Remembering how much we've been forgiven.
- b. Realizing it's unconditional.
- c. Relinquishing our right to get even.
 - i. *"Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for He has said that He will repay those who deserve it."* Romans 12:19
- d. Responding to evil with good.
 - i. *"Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you and pray for those who mistreat you."* Luke 6:27-28
 - ii. *"Love keeps no record of wrongs."* 1 Corinthians 13:5

E. **The Reflection?:**

1. Jesus has plans for you. Have you listened to Him for them? Are you following His or yours for your life?
2. Has your view on the power of faith changed? If so how? What is more important to you; the size of your faith or whom it is placed in? Why?
3. What role does humility play in your life? Pray and ask God for encouraging examples of it in your life and LISTEN where He tells you can practically improve.
4. Pray and ask God to search your heart and see if there are little holdouts of unforgiveness there then LISTEN, CONFESS, FORGIVE and be thankful for those little holdouts can become strongholds of bitterness if left to fester.
5. How does your growth as a disciple compare with that of the disciples? Are you encouraged or discouraged as we follow their journey with Jesus? Why? Ask God how He thinks you are doing and journal His response.