



FAITH that ENCOUNTERS
Matthew 17:1-9
3.29.2020

I. Jesus, Party of 4 (vs 1)

II. Jesus' Transfiguration, Peter's Transformation (vs 2-6)

A. Moses and Elijah (vs 3-4)

1. Moses... the writer of the Law
2. Elijah.... the Prophets
3. Peter... "let's build tents!"—Peter's first reaction was to start a construction project?!

B. "As he was still speaking" (vs 5)

1. My beloved—God speaks his full AFFECTION for Jesus
2. My Son— God speaks his full ACCEPTANCE of Jesus
3. I am well pleased—God speaks his full AFFIRMATION in Jesus
4. Listen to Him—God speaks his full AUTHORITY given to Jesus

PETER PRINCIPLE #1:
WHEN OUR NATURAL REACTION IS TO SPEAK IN FEAR,
OUR FIRST RESPONSE IS TO LISTEN IN FAITH

III. Faith in the Face of Fear (vs 6-8)

A. "Fell on their faces, terrified" (vs 6)

B. "But Jesus..." (vs 7)

- The very same Jesus who carries the full weight and totality of God's affection, acceptance, affirmation, and authority is also present and active right now, in our lives...
- Jesus is God with us, Emmanuel, and he invites us into a relationship with himself
- Jesus is God FOR us, and he calls us to faith IN himself

C. "...No One But Jesus" (vs 8)

PETER PRINCIPLE #2
WHENEVER WE FIND OURSELVES FLAT ON OUR FACES,
JESUS INVITES US TO LIFT OUR EYES AND SEE NO ONE BUT HIM

1. We Hold Fast to our confession (Hebrews 4:14)

*Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us **hold fast** our confession.*

What's Our Confession Today?

- His Name is Jesus
- He is the Great High Priest

- The One who has passed through the heavens
- He is the Son of the living God

2. We **Draw Near** to His Throne of Grace (Hebrews 4:14-16)

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence **draw near** to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

We draw near... with confidence... to His throne of grace...
receiving mercy and grace when we need it the most

IV. It's Harder Coming Down than Going Up (vs 9)

PETER PRINCIPLE #3
JESUS GUIDES US UP THE MOUNTAIN,
BUT HE LEADS US INTO THE VALLEY AS WELL

A. Peter heard his voice, felt his hand, and saw his face on the mountain, but was called to a faith that was lived out in the valley

B. May we learn a faith that can move mountains not a faith that hides on top of them.

- sound where we're tempted to be scared
- generous where the world tells us to be greedy
- compassionate where we're tempted to be contemptuous

HOLD FAST & DRAW NEAR TO CHRIST

RbC Small Group Questions:

- 1) How has doing a lot of things remotely in this current season been an opportunity rather than an obstacle?
- 2) What do we learn about Jesus in this passage and how he is transforming Peter?
- 3) Which "Peter Principle" from the sermon do you resonate with the most? Please explain why.
- 4) What does it look like to hold fast and draw near to Christ in this current situation of our lives? Said in another way, what does faith in Jesus look like in the "valleys of our lives"?