

The Necessary Transformations

-This message is because of Joey. Thanks my 'brutha', co-workers together for 15 years of faithful love!

The Necessary Transfiguration and Transformations

-We will look at the following three: one transfiguration and two transformations:

The Transfiguration of Jesus in Matthew 16:27-17:8; Mark 9:1-10; Luke 9:27-36

The Transformation of Us in Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18

The Necessary Counterfeit Transformations 2 Corinthians 11:12-15

The Transfiguration of Jesus: Matthew 16:27-17:8; Mark 9:1-10; Luke 9:27-36

-These verses recount a milestone event in the life of the Son of Man.

-We call it His Transfiguration.

-The three synoptics, **Matthew**, **Mark**, and **Luke** all account for this event.

-The three disciples that witness this event were all leaders of the 12 as we discover in the Gospels & Acts.

-They were told to not say anything about this until after His resurrection,

-Only Peter of the three says anything scripturally about His transfiguration in **2 Peter 1:16-20**

-Peter argues there that Prophecy is a more sure word than even what their eyes saw-The Transfiguration

The Transfiguration is the outshining of Christ's inward shekinah glory

-It is 'glory' clothing a sinless body instead of sinless body veiling glory, as was the norm.

-No transforming work or change of body was necessary for the Body of Jesus to be glorified.

-There was no corruption or sin-imposed mortality in His body,.....

..because He did not acquire a sin nature from His virgin mother, the source of His body,....

.....according to Romans 1:3.

-The Holy Spirit overshadowed the process and kept per sinful nature from corrupting His Body

-But for us, children of fallen Adam & Eve, who believe in Christ a transforming of our body is mandatory..

... due to the presence of sin in our bodies.

-Sin in the body is the dying principle!

-Sin is a seemingly living entity within us that is alive in a 'dam-able' way to our bodies.

-Damable to our bodies but not to the inward man or woman who is born a second time....

.... by faith in Christ crucified.

-There is no redemption for our corrupt bodies, God has a better for Joey and for us who believe.

Our transformation looks like this according to the Holy Spirit in **2 Corinthians 4:16**

Therefore we do not lose heart. [Why?] Even though our outward man is perishing [due to corruption], yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

-The word "renewed" here is only used twice in the NT, here and in Colossians 3:10 which makes clear...

.... That this is a day-by-day renewal process...

Colossians 3:10 reads:

and [we have put off the old man or person and] have put on the new *man* [or person] who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him [this new person].

-So the inner person is being renewed, shaped according to the artist's model, Jesus Christ Himself.

-So while this renewing, this shaping, this artistic masterpiece is going on inside ...

.... the outer man, our bodies, is perishing due to inherent corruption.

-No one can avoid or eliminate this corruption, this mortality....

-Joey could not escape the corruption, but became free from it, when he fell asleep for the last time ...

-... and woke up face to face in a state of incorruption and immortality.

Transformation was not Necessary for the Son of Man but Transfiguration was

- No transforming work over time was necessary for His inner person being God the Son.
- There was no outer man perishing due to inner corruption only an outer tearing & piercing...
- as He allowed. He said no one takes my life, I lay it down, I take it up again.
- The inner person and the outer man did not need to catch up with each other.
- His outer man, His body was not corrupt, and did not need to be discarded.
- His inner and outer man were a perfect, sinless pairing of software and hardware.

Not so with Joey, not so with us!

Let's look at the transfiguring or the swapping out of the inner man with the outer man

- We will look at the Transfiguration of Jesus that did not require any transforming work
- We will present a harmonized version of these three passages,
- All speaking of Jesus at what became known as the Mount of Transfiguration.
- Each account has similarities and differences.
- We will make clarifying comments and application as we go thru a harmony of the three

Let's do a Men's Part and a Ladies part like the good old days of Calvary Worship!

- You MEN will need to turn and follow in **Matthew 16:27-17:8** & you LADIES & follow in **Luke 9:27-36**
- However if you are a part of our glorious worship community you will turn to **Mark 9:1-10**
- which is very close to Matthew's account.

I will read a harmonized account of all three

- You follow along with your assigned Gospel listen for the differences and similarities to your account.
- We will color code the words from the three accounts on the screen
- Purple** is **Matthew**, **Green** is **Mark**, bold **Black** is Luke.

The Harmonized Transfiguration

- Bracketed words are my clarifying additions
- Matthew 16:13 tells us that Jesus and His disciples had come 'into the region of Caesarea Philippi'.... ,
- in Northern Galilee, not far below Mount Hermon.

We start here.....

And He [Jesus] said unto them [all 12 of His disciples], assuredly I tell you the truth, there are some that stand here, who will not taste of [physical] death, till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom with power. And it came to pass after six [or] about eight days after these sayings,

We pause and ask was it Six or Eight Days?

-how do we explain this difference?

MacArthur

There is no contradiction between their accounts and Luke's; the latter merely bookended the six days by adding the day Jesus made this statement and the actual day of the transfiguration.

Continuing with the Harmony and their journey up the mountain....

Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother and brought them up into 'the' high mountain apart [secluded] by themselves to pray.

- They probably arrived as it was getting dark.
- All three disciples will be proven leaders of the twelve in the book of Acts.

Which High and Secluded Mountain?

- The Gospels do not name the mountain,
- but Mark emphasizes that they went to a high mountain apart or secluded by themselves (Mk. 9:2)...
- Based upon the geography of their most recent location Caesarea Philippi, ...
- this would be Mount Hermon, the highest mountain in the Promised Land.

Continuing with the Harmony... as He was praying

And as He was praying, the fashion of His countenance was altered, and His raiment became white and glistening. He was transfigured before them; and His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light, glistening, exceedingly white as no launderer on earth can whiten them.

- To summarize the three accounts here, Jesus was transfigured.....,
- meaning here that His inside glory was shone through Him on the outside.
- The fashion of His countenance changed, and His face shone with purity and the brightness of the sun.

His Shining Face Versus Moses' Shining Face

- His face shone with the brightness of the sun and was seen by the three Disciple/Witnesses
- This is similar but different than Moses' experience on Mount Sinai
- where he saw a new manifestation of the Shechinah glory and the face of Moses began to shine.
- The difference is that Moses' face merely reflected YHWH's glory....
- just as the light of the moon reflects the light of the sun.

Continuing the Harmony with guest appearances....

Moses and Elijah Appear with Them

and behold, there appeared unto them two men, who were Moses and Elijah. And they were talking with Jesus who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease [or His exodus] which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

- Moses and Elijah were talking with Him and Luke revealed the content of their discussion.....
- "They spoke of His decease or better exodus which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem" (Lk. 9:31).
- The Greek word for decease is exodos, which means "departure," His exodus thru Calvary to Heaven.

Luke specified that Moses and Elijah also appeared in glory (Lk. 9:31)

- In the case of Moses**, this glory only pertained to his immaterial person his soul and spirit,...
- because being in Paradise, the righteous section of Sheol, he does not have a new body,
- Because Jesus who is the firstfruit of His own resurrection has not yet died and risen!

Elijah, on the other hand, never died physically, but ascended in a speedy chariot to heaven,

- and the glory in which he appeared pertained to both his body and his soul.
- When he went up by a whirlwind into heaven (1 Kgs. 2:11), ...
- his body changed from mortality to immortality.....
- like the bodies of all living believers at the rapture (1 Cor. 15:50-58).
- This means that Elijah is no longer subject to death,
- and he cannot be one of the two witnesses of Revelation 11.
- Elijah will indeed return someday, but he will not be one of the two witnesses Heavy Revy 11!
- The same would also be true of Enoch who was taken to Heaven by the LORD after a long earthly walk.

Continuing with the Harmony.... we find the

The Disciples Heavy with Sleep, Accompanied with Fear

Now Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep; but when they were fully awake,

they saw His glory, and the two men that stood with Him. And it came to pass, as they were departing from Him **Peter answered and said unto Jesus, Rabbi, Master, Lord, it is good for us to be here and let us make three tabernacles [booths or tents] if You wish, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah, for He knew not what to say for they were very afraid.**

-Luke alone mentioned that Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep,....

-.... They became fully awake when Jesus was talking with Moses and Elijah (Lk. 9:32).

-At that point, Peter spoke up and made a suggestion:

Lord, it is good for us to be here: if you wish I will make here three tabernacles; one for you, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah (Mt. 17:4b).

-Peter's spontaneous emotional response was generated by fear and his engrained kingdom theology.

-Isn't interesting that Peter here is a tent maker and Paul was a tent maker...

Three Tabernacles?

-Peter is often criticized by Gentile commentators for offering to build three tabernacles,

-and not just one for the Son of Man....

-.... They claim that Peter was either demoting Jesus to the level of Moses and Elijah,

-or he was elevating the two famous Jews men to His level.

-That appears to be a common Gentile perception of this passage.

However, from a Jewish perspective, the response of Peter was proper if not complete

-.... based upon what Peter knew and understood about the coming kingdom....

-.... His timing was wrong because of what he did not understand...

-.... that the Passover must be fulfilled before the Feast of Tabernacles can be fulfilled.

-He did not yet know and understand the program of death and resurrection,....

-.... which must occur before the fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles and the Millennium....

-The disciples did not understand the two comings of the Messiah.

-Peter would know from a passage like **Zechariah 14:16-21**

-.... that the Messianic kingdom is the fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles.

-Seeing the glory Jesus will have in the kingdom, but not yet understanding the program of two comings,

-.... Peter assumed that the kingdom was about to be set up....,

-.... and he wanted to build three tabernacles in honor of that fact.

However, the timing was wrong because he did not yet understand **Passover B4 Tabernacles**

Continuing our harmony with the....

The Cloud, the Six, and the Voice

And while he [Peter] said these things behold there came a bright cloud overshadowing them and they were afraid as they entered into the cloud and behold there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, this is My beloved Son, My chosen one, in whom I am well pleased-hear Him! And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were very afraid. And Jesus came and touched them and said, arise, and stop being afraid. And suddenly looking round about and lifting up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus with themselves for when the voice ceased, Jesus was found alone [with the disciples].

-Before Peter could continue honoring the Feast of Tabernacles,

-the cloud of the Shechinah glory, which was once on Mount Sinai,

-.... came upon this mount, overshadowing all six men (Mk. 9:7).

-Apparently, the cloud initially enveloped only Jesus, Moses, and Elijah.

-Later the apostles entered and they were afraid as they entered into the cloud (Lk. 9:34).

Then God the Father spoke audibly out of heaven for the second time....

- The first time His voice was heard was at the baptism of the Messiah (Mt. 3:17).
- Now, at His transfiguration, the voice came out of the cloud, uttering the same words as at His baptism:
"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased"
- except this time the Father added one short command: **"hear Him"** (Mt. 17:5).

They had heard the Law and the Prophets; now, they must hear Jesus...

- ... because, in keeping with Hebrews 1:1-3, the Son was the final revelation of the Father.
- The hearing of this voice caused the apostles to be filled with fear and fall on their faces (Mt. 17:6).
- Only the comforting touch of Jesus removed their fear (Mt. 17:7).
- And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, except Jesus only (Mt. 17:8).
- Moses** was gone;
- Elijah** was gone.
- Mark emphatically states:

"Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus with themselves." (Mk. 9:8)

Continuing with the Harmony and....

The Coming Down


And as they were coming down from the mountain, He charged them, that they should tell no man what things they had seen, until the Son of Man has risen again from the dead. And they kept this saying, questioning among themselves what the rising from the dead should mean. And they held their peace and told no man in those days about any of the things which they had seen. And His disciples asked Him, saying, why do the Scribes say that Elijah must first come? And He answered and said unto them, Elijah indeed will come first, and shall restore all things and He also said to them how it is written of the Son of man, that He should suffer many things, and be treated with contempt.

What is the significance of Christ's Transfiguration

Don Stewart

"The Transfiguration was the glorification of the human body of Jesus. One in glory with His divine eternal person. On this occasion His body underwent a change in form, a metamorphosis, so that it shone as brightly as the sun. He had acknowledged that He was the Messiah and predicted His death and resurrection. Now He was to reveal, to a select few, His divine glory, fully in-sync with His sinless body."

- the transfiguration 'sealed the deal' that one third of the angels failed to acquire....
- that Adam and ourselves failed to acquire...
- Lucifer and one third of the angels, and Adam and Eve failed the tests before them to love God above themselves!
- If they would have passed the tests of love/loyalty they would have been perfected sinless forever,
- they would not have been able to sin after their testing period was over.
- For 2/3 of the Angels that passed the temptation tests to follow Lucifer they will never sin,
- they passed their tests and their testing period was over.
- The Son of Man passed all tests and temptations to sin,
- which temptations were many more and under harsher conditions than Adam and Eve's temptations.
- His necessary transformation was sealed when He heard the words from Father YHWH in Heaven...

[illegible]

-At His water baptism, the left bookend of His earthly ministry, Jesus and others heard the Father declare,

This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, Hear Him!

- This commendation is repeated at the right bookend of His earthly life, at the Mount of Transfiguration,
- To this statement of affirmation, this command was added: **“Hear Him!”**
- Jesus knows how to navigate this earthly life and be well pleasing to the Father!
- He will instruct His Disciples and they in turn will instruct us on how to live a life that’s pleasing to Him.

The Second Transformation...

The Transformation of Us: Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18

Transformation Versus Transfiguration

- Matthew 17:2 says He was transfigured before them.
- The Greek word for transfigured is, **metamorphoo'**
- and in our passages it is a verb in the aorist tense, which indicates a singular event in the past
- His outshining retreated back inside His body and once again He looked like us, but with His glory veiled
- His work was not finished, the cross and His exodus awaited Him when He came down from the Mount.

Metamorphoo is used only twice more outside of the Gospels,....

-.... both by Paul, both uses speaking of our transformation instead of our transfiguring.

Is any part of us transformed while we are in our corrupt bodies?

- The answer is Yes!
- The following passages that use transformed apply to us: *(show the following verses together)*

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world but be TRANSFORMED by the renewing of your mind [thru the Word], that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

together with

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being TRANSFORMED into the same image [of Jesus] from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

-The Holy Spirit through the Spiritual Brain food, the Word of god transforms our inner man, ...
-..... while our outer man is slowly perishing!

- As Gracie Slick wrote in her song, White Rabbit, 'FEED YOUR HEAD',
- but the food for our heads is the transforming Word of God.....
- Transforming the mind and all of your inner man by taking in the Word,
- and allowing the Spirit to TRANSFORM you.

The Third Kind of Transformation....

Necessary Counterfeit Transformations 2 Corinthians 11:12-15

- Let's read these verses with a bit expansion

12 But what I do, I will also continue to do [I will not alter my Apostolic commission to conform to this world or for my comfort], [Why?] that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are [as Apostles] in the things of which they boast.

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, TRANSFORMING themselves into apostles of Christ.

14 And no wonder! For Satan [the adversary] himself TRANSFORMS himself into an angel [or messenger] of light.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also TRANSFORM themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

- How does Satan join the church?
- He sends his false apostles, deceitful workers who transform themselves into messengers of light,
- Their messages are the doctrine of demons according to Paul in 1 Tim. 4:1.

Why necessary counterfeit transformations?

- Jesus said and predicted in the kingdom parables of Matt. 13, that birds would live in the kingdom...
- and birds are evil in the parables;
- heaven would be in the fellowship,
- and tares (that look like wheat) would be sown into the fellowship by the enemy.
- Paul was dealing with these counterfeit elements when writing 2 Corinthians.

In Closing we ask

- What part of Joey was being transformed while he was here with us?
- The inner man but not the outer man.
- What part of Joey and you and I need a complete transformation?....
- the outer man our bodies....
- which is not suited or allowed for the perfect environment of Heaven.
- His corrupt and mortal outer man was 'exodosed' and left behind,
-to make way for the new outer body of glory.
- In heaven believing mankind will once again be clothed in light as the Son of Man demonstrated.....
- On the Mount of Transfiguration.

Amen.

Let's pray and take Communion together.