

20:20 Vision Ministries -- Devotions by Roger Browning Week 12 (March 17-23, 2013)

Many people have confirmed the proclamation that Peter made in Matthew 16:16. Fewer have accepted His suffering and His death on Calvary as an absolute necessity in order to offer salvation to the lost world. Fewer yet have laid down their own lives and picked up their cross to follow Him. This week's devotions will explore the joy ahead for those who are completely dedicated to seeking Him.

Sunday -- March 17 (Matthew 17:1-8)

In Matthew 16:28 (yesterday's text), Jesus promised His disciples that some of them would not taste death before they would see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom. Therefore, following His death and resurrection, the disciples expect Jesus to return at any moment to set up His kingdom. They do not understand that six days after making that statement, He will lead three of them up a mountain (v. 1) to see a **preview of coming attractions** in fulfillment of His promise (v. 1). Peter, James and John are chosen because they have emerged as leaders within the Twelve. On the Mount of Transfiguration, God's glory leaks out of Jesus' earthly body allowing these men to see Him in His glorified form (v. 2). We'll see the effects of this in tomorrow's study.

Monday -- March 18 (Matthew 17:1-8)

The three chosen disciples not only see Jesus in His glorified body, they see Moses and Elijah as well (v. 3). In his parallel text, Luke tells us, "They spoke about His departure, which He was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem" (Luke 9:31). Personally, I believe these two Old Testament heroes will be the two prophets who minister God's Word to the Jews during the Great Tribulation (Revelation 11:1-12). These men stand in the glory of our Lord as they talk with Him about the necessity of His death and resurrection. Notice that Jesus does not have to introduce these saints to Peter, James and John; they immediately recognize men whom they have never seen. This confirms that **you** will definitely recognize your family and friends who have preceded you into heaven. If you seek to see **Him** in His glory, many other bonuses will follow!

Tuesday -- March 19 (Matthew 17:1-8)

Peter is nearly always the first to speak, although he often blunders (v. 4). Overwhelmed by the sight before him, he offers to build three tabernacles, one for Jesus, one for Moses and one for Elijah. There is nothing wrong with honoring those who preceded you, especially those who led you to Jesus. The **church**, however, is to build on Him alone! The proclamation of His Deity (16:16) is the Truth on which His church is built (16:17-18). No other foundation can ever be laid (see 1 Corinthians 3:11). Peter is about to learn this lesson in humility. I pray that you have learned it as well. Ministers and leaders are to be respected, but never idolized. Jesus alone is to be worshiped!

Wednesday -- March 20 (Matthew 17:1-8)

I have asked you to read this entire text each day because it tells the story of one of the few events that is accompanied by the voice of God the Father (see Matthew 3:13-17). Just like He does at the baptism of Jesus, God identifies our Lord as His Son, expressing His love for Him and His pleasure in His mission (v. 5). Following this affirmation of the Deity of Jesus, the Father commands, "Listen to Him." Moses and Elijah were obedient men who were used by God to deliver the law. Jesus, however, is **God's Son** who willingly paid the price for our salvation, something the law could never provide. Make sure your focus is on Him and not on any preacher or leader or parent who may have influenced your life.

Thursday -- March 21 (Matthew 17:1-8)

Like the three disciples, you will experience fear when God comes to you in a way that He has never come before (v. 6). In Scripture, we are often told to seek His face (see Hebrews 11:6 and 2 Chronicles 7:14). I hope you have had and will have times of worship and prayer when His presence overwhelms you. You will be terrified by His holiness because, during these times, you will see yourself as a sinner in need of His **mercy** and **grace**. That's what makes v. 7 so precious: "But Jesus came and touched them." Have you felt His touch during times of fear and uncertainty? Have you heard Him say, "Don't be afraid?" If so, you are ready for my favorite "KLUFROG" verse that completes this text.

Friday -- March 22 (Matthew 17:1-8)

Keep Looking Up—Fully Rely On God (KLUFROG) has been the theme of my ministry for the past six years. The progress toward achieving this goal is slow and tedious, but the rewards of dying to my personal agenda far outweigh the frustration of the long journey toward trusting Him completely. The secret is stated clearly in v. 8: "**When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.**" Tough days are ahead for our country and our world. According to Scripture (Revelation 6:6), the almighty dollar is going to collapse, but our **Almighty God** remains on the throne. He created the universe; He sustains it; and He is the Heir of all things (Hebrews 1:1-3). Focus on Him as you live out your days on earth!

Saturday -- March 23 (2 Peter 1:16-21)

I want you to complete this week's studies by reading the testimony of Peter, one of the three eyewitnesses of the transfiguration. In v. 19, he states that he has more confidence in the Word of God than he has in what he saw and experienced on that mountain. I love the way this verse describes the ever-increasing light that comes from the Scripture. The Bible came to us as a result of the Holy Spirit inspiring men to write down God's infallible Word (v. 20-21). When you truly believe this fact, you will have joy in claiming the many promises He has made to you through Scripture. Use "Praying God's Promises" on our website to encourage you to take His Word literally and claim the wonderful life He has in store for all who trust Him fully!