

100 days with Jesus

Group Study No: 11

Matthew 17:1-13

Introduction

This incident points from Earth to Heaven. Jesus and the disciples have climbed above the normal, the everyday, the routine and the usual. They have looked into the distance, both the distant past and the distant future.

This is largely the reason that people climb mountains; to look into the distance; to see beyond the normal, to observe the everyday routine of life like a colony of ants scrambling about in the dust. They want to see beauty, mystery, light and shade.

Here on the mountaintop, the disciples can see, get excited and begin to feel things that they have never felt before.

Discussion

1. It seems as if Peter, James and John were like the inner core of the twelve for Jesus. Why do you think he needed this?
2. Do you have particular people that you can lean on at important times?
3. V3 Of all the Old Testament characters that could have appeared on the mountain, why do you think it was Moses and Elijah?
4. V4 Why do you think Peter offers to build three shelters?
5. Are you tempted to DO things for Jesus, rather than simply being with Jesus?
6. V5 Why do you think that God spoke in an audible voice at Jesus' baptism, and again here, at his Transfiguration?
7. V9 Why do you think Jesus instructed his disciples not to tell anybody what they had witnessed until after the resurrection?

The disciple's question in v10 goes back to a prophecy in Malachi 4:5-6 "See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great

and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; else I will come and strike the land with total destruction."

8. What do you think Jesus' reply in v11-12 means?
9. Have you had a 'mountaintop experience' when God felt particularly close to you?

Prayer

Lord God,
Heavenly Father,
Help me to be silent.
To listen,
To gaze,
To wonder,
To hear,
And then take me
Up the mountain.
Amen.