

## Matthew 17:1-13

### A taste of things to come



Slightly unusually, this passage has something like a date stamp: “six days later”. Presumably six days later than Jesus' statement about people seeing the Kingdom of God coming – so are we meant to see this “Transfiguration” as the first introduction of a new tune into the Bible's symphony of salvation ... with more, we are promised, *much* more, yet to come?

So here, **Jesus' glorious appearance reminds us of his nature, and the voice of God confirms that his mission, including the cross, is rightly oriented.**

#### ➤ The mountain (1-3)

Luke 9:30-31 gives us some insight into the content of Jesus' words with Moses and Elijah: his *departure* – the Greek word is *exodos* (we spell it with a *u* in English). What similarities do you see between salvation in Jesus and the liberation of the Jewish slaves from Egypt?

#### ➤ The mistake (4)

Peter was perhaps surprised to find Jesus in such exalted company as these two worthies of the past. The world would put a whole row of tents on the mountain top, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one each for various other notable figures. It's good to have a high view of Jesus, but why is such a view not good *enough*?

#### ➤ The message (5-8)

It's all very easy to say these stirring words. But we can't actually physically hear Jesus. And aren't there other voices also worth listening to? So (perhaps by thinking about what religious practices might *not* totally sum up these phrases ... e.g., “read your Bible”) consider how, *in practice*, we might apply ...

... *listen to him*

... *Jesus only*