

Community Group Question Guide

Matthew 17:1-8 - Listen

1 And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

3 And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

4 And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah."

5 He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

6 When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified.

7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear."

8 And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. *ESV*

- Matthew is a master at transitions in his gospel account. What thoughts / images does his opening transition evoke here?
- Jesus went up on a high mountain – where have we seen this and what does it usually mean?
- In verses 2 & 5, what imagery is emphasized threefold? What do you make of it?
- Moses and Elijah are two of the great figures of salvation history – why do you think they in particular are here, and what do you think they represent?
- The Father's blessing to his son has happened once before. Where was that and why do you think God the Father speaks again at this point? What is different from the first episode?
- What are the three facets of blessing given here to Jesus by God the Father?
- Given the great standings of Moses, Elijah, & especially God the Father himself – what do you make of the Father commanding in the singular: *listen to him*?
- And when God says *listen to him*, what is the implied corollary command?
- Given where Jesus is headed, why is it so important that the disciples listen & obey?
- Amidst their terror, Jesus *touched* (lit. held, grasped, laid hold of) the three disciples. Take a look at Matthew 8:1-4 where Jesus *touched* (same word) a man. What is he doing in these scenes?
- After being told to listen to Jesus, what are the first words the disciples hear from him?
- To what do Jesus words point?
- Why, at the end of this scene, was it *Jesus only* with them?
- In the end, what do you think the disciples, and we, learn from this scene?