



A Vision of Heavenly Glory

“And [Jesus] was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light” (Matthew 17:2).

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“And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, 2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. 3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. 4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. 5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. 6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. 7 And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. 8 And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only. 9 And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead” (Matthew 17:1-9).

Vision brings within the reach of mortal beings, the invisible realm of God. Without vision we will be limited in understanding and aimless in direction. In this text, Jesus gave 3 of His disciples the privilege of seeing a vision of His glory.

Place of the Vision

Six days after the events in chapter 16, Jesus took three of the disciples up a high mountain, where the vision took place. Consider why:

- 1) Moses had to travel up mount Sinai on 2 occasions and spent 40 days and nights there each time, to receive the 10 commandments;
- 2) Elijah had to travel 40 days to Horeb, to hear the still small voice of God;
- 3) Isaiah had to go into the temple (Isaiah 6) to see the vision of God.

There is a place for vision. A place of meeting with God. Have you found yours yet?

Purpose of the Vision

Vision enlightens, empowers, directs and revitalises. The 3 disciples who had the vision, experienced these.

- 1) Isaiah's revelation of God (Isaiah 6) transformed his ministry for the better;
- 2) Moses vision of the burning bush empowered him to deliver Israel from Egypt;

“While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him” (Matthew 17:5).

- 3) Saul persecutor was transformed into Paul the preacher via a vision on the road to Damascus;
- 4) Joseph's vision gave him the strength to bear the adversities with courage and integrity;
- 5) Jesus' vision of the crown empowered Him to endure the cross;
- 6) Jesus' revelation to John on the Island of Patmos, opened a new chapter for his ministry, and gave him hope that 'it is not over, until it is over';
- 7) These 3 disciples were given the rare opportunity of hearing God confirm the superiority of Christ above Moses and Elijah, in their presence, a knowledge that would have prepared them for the rest of their Ministry.

What heavenly vision have you had and what difference is it making in your life?

Partakers of the Vision

Jesus had 12 disciples, and multitudes that always throng His ministry, but He selected the 3 closest disciples to see the vision. Was He discriminating. Absolutely not. God does not cast pearls to swine (Matthew 7:6). He reserves His best for the ready. Ponder over these:

- 1) Abraham and Lot were both righteous but God revealed the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah to Abraham only even though Lot lived there;
- 2) In Luke 10, Jesus sent out 70 disciples to preach, but He only permitted 3 to see this vision.

Proscription from sharing the Vision

After such a glorious vision would it not have been wonderful for the disciples to spread the good news?. Never forget that there is time for everything (Ecclesiastes 3).

Vision makes a difference and impact. Our earnest prayer should be along the lines of “God give me a vision that will set me on fire for you, and keep me burning in your service till the close of age”