

A note from Kathy

I am so proud of you for making God's word a priority. No child of God ever spent time reading and studying his word and walked away wishing they had that time back. I wholeheartedly agree with Peter's words in verse 4, "Lord, it is good for us to be here." I am praying our eyes and ears will be open to all God has for us this week.

Observation

1. Read Matthew 17 twice before answering the questions. I like to listen to it being read to me on my YouVersion app as I read along. The second time I listen to it, I highlight and jot down notes. Hope this helps you.
2. Matthew 17:1 says, "after six days." What happened six days prior to this? What is the text referring to? Read Matthew 16:21-28
3. Take a few minutes and compare the different gospel accounts of this event. It is found in Mark 9:1-13 and Luke 9:27-36. Please do not get confused by the different references to time. Matthew and Mark state, "after six days," but Luke says "about eight days." Luke is probably counting the day of Peter's confession, "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*" and the day on the mountain with Jesus. We must not miss the importance of this event; they were witnesses of Jesus in his glory. Why was it important for all three to write about this event?

Deut. 19:15 "...A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."

4. Where did Jesus lead Peter, James and John in verse 1?
5. What unusual and unexpected event happened?
List the details of this event. Matt. 17:2-3
 - a.
 - b.
6. What did Peter suggest? Why do you suppose Peter wanted to do this?
7. Where had Jesus said he was headed? Matthew 16:21

8. God refocused their attention from the temporal to the eternal. How did he do this?
9. What was the response of the disciples to this amazing event?
10. Look closely at verse 7; in what ways did Jesus express his love to Peter, James and John?
11. What instructions did Jesus give them as they were coming down the mountain?
12. It is obvious that the disciples knew the words of the prophet Malachi. What did they say must happen before the Messiah was to come? Look up Malachi 4:5-6
13. What truth did Jesus share with his disciples in verses 11-12?
14. The disciples understood who Jesus was referring to. Who was to be the fulfillment of this prophecy?
15. As Jesus, Peter, James and John returned to the crowd, a man came and knelt before Jesus. What was his problem? What was his request?
16. After this miraculous event, the disciples came to Jesus privately. What did they ask him?
17. What did Jesus say was the heart of the problem?
18. In verses 22-23 Jesus once again made it very clear what lay ahead. List the events.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
19. Notice the reaction of the disciples. Was this the first time they had heard this news? Read Matthew 16:21. How did their reaction differ this time?
20. Jesus and his disciples had been up in the area of Caesarea Philippi, and now have arrived at Capernaum; look at the map and locate these places.

21. The tax collectors found Peter and questioned him as to the annual tax that every male in Israel was to pay. What was their question?
22. Jesus did not wait for Peter to ask him about the tax when he arrived. Write out the question Jesus posed to Peter. What truth was he helping Peter come to for himself?
23. Exodus 30:13-16 explains the purpose for the annual tax mentioned in Matthew 17:24—27. This was a census tax that every male _____ years of age and older were to pay _____. This offering was in remembrance of God's deliverance and was to be used for the sanctuary upkeep. Let's reason together for a few minutes. What was the purpose of the sanctuary? (Do not over think this.)

Who was Jesus, according to Matthew 1:23?

Do you now have a greater understanding of what Jesus was saying to Peter in Matthew 17:25-27? Write out your understanding.

24. How was Peter able to pay this tax?

Application

1. I can only imagine the thrill Peter, James and John felt when they saw Jesus in his transfigured glory. Luke 9 tells us that these men had gone up on to the mountain, but the disciples were very tired and had fallen asleep. They awoke to the voices of Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. I do not know how they recognized Moses and Elijah. Perhaps Jesus called them by name. Then the voice of God spoke confirming once again that Jesus was exactly who he said he was and that they were to focus intently on his words. There were many things happening around them every day; it might have been difficult to stay focused. As a mother, before leaving the house I would ask my children to look at me while I spoke and then repeat back any instructions I had given. I wanted a full understanding. Are there areas where you need to refocus in order to give the Lord your undivided attention?
2. In verse 7 Jesus reassured his friends. Notice exactly what he did. When you are around someone who is experiencing fear, how do you respond? What can we learn from Jesus' example that day?

3. Matthew 17:14-20 tells the story of a man whose son suffered seizures. These seizures had caused him to accidentally injure himself on several occasions. The man brought the boy to the disciples, but they were unable to help. Perhaps they thought in their hearts that this was a matter for Jesus, not us. Their faith was small, Jesus said.
Have you ever asked God the same type of question the disciples did in verse 19?
Is there a mountain you would like to see moved?
What do you believe it will take to see God move in your situation?
4. In Matthew 17:24-27 Jesus chose the Greek word "*Skandalizo*" which means to offend or place a stumbling block or impediment in the way. To place something in the way to make one trip; to cause them to fall or be hindered.
Read 1 Corinthians 10: 31-33 and 2 Corinthians 6:3 to go along with this teaching.
What truth did Jesus and the apostle Paul want us to understand?
Are there ways you put this into practice this week?
5. In verse 24 Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum. Read Matthew 11:20-23 to see the events that took place the last time Jesus was in Capernaum. What had Bethsaida, Korazin and Capernaum seen that brought a judgment against them?
6. With all the Bibles, books about Jesus, preaching and teaching we have at our fingertips, do you believe America may be in line for a similar "woe"? Please answer this with more than merely "yes" or "no."

With all we have seen in Matthew 11:20-23, Matthew 17:24-27, 1 Corinthians 10:31-33 and 2 Corinthians 6:3, what would you say is our responsibility?
7. My friend Shanna often comments on the treasures she finds each day in God's word. What treasure or treasures did you find while spending time in Matthew 17?
8. Time spent together is how we build strong, trusting and true relationships.
Write a prayer expressing your heart to God for all you have learned from your time with Him.