The Gospel of Matthew
“The Transfiguration of Jesus” – Matthew 17:1-27
June 27, 2010

Sermon Series on Matthew

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Matthew</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec-Feb</td>
<td>Series: Christmas According to Matthew</td>
<td>Chap 1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-Apr</td>
<td>Matthew Continued</td>
<td>Chap 8-10,26-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr-May</td>
<td>Series: End Times</td>
<td>Chap 24-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-June</td>
<td>Matthew Continued</td>
<td>Chap 11-17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Family Sundays in July (children 19 mo. & up are with adults in Worship Center)
July 4      Special Fourth of July emphasis – Mitch Pearson preaching
July 11     The Chalk Guy
July 18     Jeff Tillson preaching
July 25     The Church Has Left the Building

Life Lessons from Matthew 17

1) The Transfiguration of Jesus: Lessons on ________________, heaven, leadership, parenting, and God’s love (17:1-13)
   - This was a fulfillment of Jesus’ prediction 6 days earlier that some of the disciples would “see the Son of Man coming in His Kingdom” (16:28).
   - metamorphoo = to transform, transfigure, change
   - Peter, James, and John were getting to see Jesus in His glorified state (v.2). This was a movie trailer preview of the Second Coming of Christ and the glory He has in heaven.
   - Revelation 1:12-17 – I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw... someone “like a son of man,” dressed in a robe reaching down to His feet and with a golden sash around His chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead.
   - Ezekiel 10:4 – Then the glory of the Lord rose from above the cherubim and moved to the threshold of the temple. The cloud filled the temple, and the court was full of the radiance of the glory of the Lord.
   - Statistics about the sun:
     - Diameter = 865,000 miles (109 times that of earth)
     - Temperature at core = 27,000,000 degrees Fahrenheit
     - Distance from sun to earth = 93 million miles
   - 1 Timothy 6:15-16 – God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light...
   - Peter and John were so impacted by this encounter with the transfigured Christ that they wrote about it in their writings:
     - John 1:14 – The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
     - 2 Peter 1:16-18 – We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this Voice that came from heaven when we were with Him on the sacred mountain.
   - Application #1 – Spend time meditating on the glory of God, and then fall down and worship Him.
   - Notice that only Peter, James, and John were with Jesus here. This was an intentional ________________ strategy on Jesus’ part. He would frequently take this inner circle of three with Him on special ministry assignments in order to mentor them (Matthew 17:1; 26:37; Mark 5:37; 9:2; 14:33; Luke 8:51; 9:28; 22:8).
   - Application #2 – Who are 2 or 3 people whom I can mentor just by taking them with me to places I am already going? (Hint: If you are a parent, your children are a great place to start!) Video from Tangle.com: “I’ll Need You Dad” (1:39)
   - What’s up with Moses and Elijah being there?
   - Michael Green: “Moses and Elijah were recognized as the supreme representatives of the law and the prophets. And here they were talking with Jesus who had come to fulfill what both law and prophets had looked forward to. Their significance was even greater than that, however. In Scripture, both Moses and Elijah are connected with the end of time. Both had something uncanny about the way they had left this life. Moses was never found: God buried him. Elijah was removed by horses and chariots of fire. The expectation was that a prophet like Moses would arise in the last days (Deut 18:15) and that Elijah would return before the Lord at the end (Malachi 4:5). Now, in this astounding vision, both expectations were coming true. The Lord was coming! Both men stand round Jesus, as if pointing to Him, the culmination of all that the law and the prophets had stood for. Then they fade away and leave Jesus only. The forerunners have done their task. They can disappear into the background now that the principal figure is here.”
   - Verse 5 represents the 2nd time God the Father has publicly affirmed His Son with these exact same words (Matthew 3:17).
1. Application #3 – Parents: Our children long for words of affirmation from us. God the Father’s words here are a great affirmation to give your son or daughter on a weekly basis.

2. Application #4 – By the way, this is how God feels about you! In Christ, you are God’s son/daughter, whom He loves; with you He is well pleased. Nothing you can say or do will cause God to love you more or to accept you any more than He already does in Christ!

3. Video from GodTube.com: “Now THIS is How You Praise and Worship” (2:31)

2) Deliverance of a demon-possessed boy: Lessons on _________ and purpose (17:14-23)

- Key verse = v.20
- The mustard seed was the smallest seed that farmers of that day used, and yet it could grow a plant that would reach 10 feet in height.
- All God is looking for is faith the size of a mustard seed, and He will take that faith and grow something big or do the impossible... like moving a mountain!

3) Temple tax: Lessons on ____________, offense, and the awe of God (17:24-27)

- The two-drachma tax was the annual temple tax that was required of every male 20 years of age or older (Exodus 30:11-16). It was worth approximately two days wages and was used for the temple service. The fact that the tax collectors approached only Peter could indicate that he was the only disciple over the age of 20.
- Jesus did not have to pay this tax because He is God (the King!) and free of the law; and yet, so as not to give offense, He pays it anyway.
- Michael Green: “The temple tax would go into the treasury of the very Establishment that would betray Jesus to death. Yet He did it.”

- Application #7 – Jesus is an amazing example of humbleness and of going the extra mile to not cause offense. I want to be like Him!
- Application #8 – The implications of Jesus’ words in Verses 25-26 are amazing! As believers and followers of Christ, we are sons and daughters of the King! We are royalty! Know who you are in Christ and begin to live that the royalty that you are:

  - I am God’s son/daughter (John 1:12)
  - I am Christ’s friend (John 15:15)
  - I am a saint (Ephesians 1:1)
  - I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20)
  - I am God’s masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10)
  - I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength (Phil. 4:13)

- The four-drachma coin fishing miracle is an amazing picture of Jesus’ _________ over all of creation. He knows everything! He knew that a fish had swallowed a four-drachma coin! He was sovereign over the dropping of the coin into the water and the swallowing of that coin by that fish and the catching of that particular fish by Peter! Amazing!

- Application #9 – Wow! If Jesus is sovereign over something as silly as a fish swallowing a coin, then certainly He is sovereign over my life. I don’t understand everything going on in my life, but I trust the One who does. Pray: Jesus, I trust You with my life. You are Sovereign Lord, and I stand in awe of You! I worship You! I trust You! I stand in awe of You!

- Video from GodTube.com: “Cancer is the Best Thing That Happened to Me – Zac Smith Story” (4:30)

- Six observations by Warren Wiersbe on the Four-Drachma Miracle:
  1. This miracle is recorded only by Matthew (who was a tax collector).
  2. It is the only miracle Jesus performed to meet His own needs.
  3. It is the only miracle using money.
  4. It is the only miracle involving just one fish.
  5. It was performed for Peter.
  6. It is the only miracle that does not have the results recorded.

Questions to Discuss with Your Family, Friends, and Small Group

1. As you dream about heaven and glory, what is one thing that you hope will be there? (Chocolate? Pets? Milk Duds? Banana-grams?)

2. Read Matthew 17 aloud and discuss its meaning and applications using these notes. Share your applications with one another and pray for each other.