

Glory Devotion

Jesus Fulfills God's Message of Hope Found in the Law and Prophets

Matthew 17

Understanding the Context of Matthew 17

Matthew 17 comes right after one of the most important moments in the Gospel of Matthew. In **Matthew 16**, Peter boldly declares that Jesus is “**the Christ, the Son of the living God.**” But immediately after that moment, Jesus begins explaining something the disciples did not expect, **He must suffer, die, and rise again.**

The disciples are confused. They expected the Messiah to be a conquering king, not a suffering servant.

So in Matthew 17, Jesus gives three of His disciples, **Peter, James, and John**, a glimpse of something incredible. They see Jesus in His **glory**. This moment is called **The Transfiguration**.

During this event:

- Jesus' appearance changes and shines with heavenly glory.
- Moses appears (representing the Law).
- Elijah appears (representing the Prophets).
- God the Father speaks from heaven confirming Jesus as His Son.

This moment shows something powerful:

Everything in the Old Testament, the Law and the Prophets, was pointing to Jesus.

Jesus is not just another teacher or prophet. He is the fulfillment of God's entire plan of redemption.

For teenagers today, this chapter reminds us that:

- Jesus is greater than any leader or prophet.
- Jesus is the center of God's story.
- Listening to Jesus changes everything.

Explore the Text: Key Words in Matthew 17

Understanding some key words in this chapter helps us see the deeper meaning behind the story.

Transfigured (Matthew 17:2)

The word **transfigured** means *to change form or appearance*. The Greek word is **metamorphoō**, which means a transformation that reveals the true nature of something.

Jesus didn't become something new, **His divine glory was revealed.**

For a moment, the disciples saw Jesus **as He truly is.**

Glory

Glory in Scripture refers to the **visible greatness and majesty of God.**

When Jesus shines like the sun, it shows that He shares the **same glory as God**.

John later writes about this moment:

“We have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.”

(John 1:14)

Moses

Moses represents the **Law**. He was the one through whom God gave the Ten Commandments and the covenant to Israel.

His presence shows that **Jesus fulfills the Law**.

Elijah

Elijah represents the **Prophets**. The prophets pointed Israel toward repentance and spoke about the coming Messiah.

His presence shows that **Jesus fulfills the Prophets**.

Listen to Him

When God the Father speaks in verse 5, He says:

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**.”

This statement establishes Jesus’ authority above everyone else.

The message is simple: **Jesus is the one we must follow**.

5-Day Devotional Plan

Day 1: A Glimpse of Glory - Matthew 17:1–2

Imagine being one of the disciples in this moment. One second you're walking up a mountain with Jesus, and the next moment His entire appearance changes.

His face shines like the sun. His clothes glow with brilliant light. This wasn't a magic trick or illusion.

For a brief moment, the disciples saw **the true glory of Jesus**.

The same Jesus who ate meals with them, walked dusty roads, and talked with them daily was also **the glorious Son of God**.

Sometimes we forget who Jesus really is. We treat Him like a distant figure in history instead of the **living King of the universe**. But moments like this remind us that Jesus is not ordinary. He is **glorious, powerful, and divine**. And the amazing truth is that this same Jesus invites us into a relationship with Him.

Application

Do you see Jesus as ordinary or glorious?

If we truly believe Jesus is the Son of God, it should change how we:

- worship
- pray
- live
- follow Him daily

Challenge

Spend five minutes today in prayer simply thanking Jesus for who He is.

Instead of asking for things, focus on **worshiping Him for His greatness.**

Day 2: The Law and the Prophets Point to Jesus - Matthew 17:3–4

When Moses and Elijah appear beside Jesus, it isn't random.

Moses represents **the Law.**

Elijah represents **the Prophets.**

Together they represent the entire Old Testament. Their presence shows that the entire story of Scripture has been pointing to one person:

Jesus.

From Genesis to Malachi, the Bible points toward the coming Messiah.

Jesus Himself said in **Luke 24:27**:

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

The Bible is not a collection of random stories. It is **one unified story of God rescuing humanity through Jesus.**

Application:

When you read the Bible, remember: **It all points to Jesus.**

Even the parts that seem confusing or distant are part of God's plan leading to Christ.

Challenge

Read **Luke 24:27** today.

Ask yourself: How does the story of the Bible ultimately lead to Jesus?

Day 3: Listen to Jesus - Matthew 17:5

In this moment, God the Father speaks directly from heaven. Imagine hearing the voice of God echo across the mountain.

God makes three powerful statements:

1. Jesus is **His beloved Son**
2. God is **pleased with Him**
3. Everyone must **listen to Him**

This statement places Jesus above every other teacher, prophet, or religious leader. In a world full of voices telling us how to live, social media, culture, friends, influencers, God gives us one clear direction:

Listen to Jesus.

His words bring truth, life, and direction.

Application

What voices influence you the most?

- friends
- social media

- culture
- celebrities

God calls us to make sure the loudest voice in our lives is **Jesus**.

Challenge

Read **Matthew 7:24–27**.

Ask yourself: Am I building my life on Jesus' words or just hearing them?

Day 4: Fear Turns Into Faith - Matthew 17:5–9

When the disciples hear God's voice, they fall to the ground in fear.

That reaction makes sense. Encountering the holiness of God is overwhelming, But then something beautiful happens.

Jesus walks over to them, touches them, and says: "**Do not be afraid.**"

This moment shows both sides of who Jesus is:

- He is **glorious and holy**
- He is also **kind and compassionate**

Jesus doesn't leave the disciples in fear. He lifts them up. The same is true for us. God is holy and powerful, but through Jesus we can approach Him with confidence.

Hebrews 4:16 says: "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace."

Application

When you feel overwhelmed by fear, stress, or anxiety, remember that Jesus invites you to come to Him. He lifts us up.

Challenge

Write down one fear or stress you are carrying right now. Pray and give that worry to Jesus.

Day 5: The Promise Fulfilled - Matthew 17:10–13

The disciples ask Jesus about Elijah because the prophets said Elijah would come before the Messiah. Jesus explains that **John the Baptist fulfilled that role.**

John prepared the way for Jesus. This moment reminds us that God keeps His promises. Everything the prophets spoke about the coming Savior was fulfilled in Christ. God's plan of redemption unfolded exactly as He said it would. That means we can trust the promises God has given us today.

Application

If God kept His promises about Jesus, we can trust His promises about:

- forgiveness
- eternal life
- His presence with us
- His return one day

Challenge

Read **2 Corinthians 1:20**. Write down one promise of God you want to trust more in your life.