

## **“The King is Affirmed”**

### **Matthew Chapter 17, vs1-13**

#### **Small Group Study Notes for the week commencing 08.03.09**

This passage takes us up to the mountain top to see Jesus in a new light (the transfiguration). He takes three disciples with him to witness this. What they don't understand is that, for Jesus, this is the beginning of the final “descent” into Jerusalem and the cross. We can learn a number of things from this experience and the disciples' reaction to it:

**On the mountain top:** A “mountain top experience” is an occasional moment in a Christian's life when they see things more clearly, and are more excited by what they see. It may be up an actual mountain, or hill, or at an event, such as a large gathering, or a house party or retreat.

*If people have had such an experience, would they be willing to share it with the group? Did it last? If people have never had any such experience is that because they've never thought to go anywhere to find it? Are people content enough with their normal daily lives, as Christians, so that they don't feel the need for anything “more”?*

**What did they see?** The three disciples saw Jesus changed, and also saw him talking to Moses and Elijah.

*What was the significance of Moses - what did he stand for?*

*What was the significance of Elijah - what did he stand for?*

*Put these two together and see what the purpose of Jesus' life is (Matt 5 v 17)*

**What did they want to do?** Peter made another of his mistakes (v 4) and the vision vanishes, leaving Jesus only.

*Would we have said the same? Do we try to cling on to our best experiences? Do we try to revive them? Perhaps a time of worship was very special - so shall we sing it again “Sam”?*

*What does God's reaction to Peter's “good idea” tell us about what matters most - an experience, or a person?*

**Preparation for what is to come:** The disciples had to follow Jesus back down the mountain into normal life (the “valley”), but what they saw stayed with them. He actually told them not to speak of it until he had been raised from the dead. What they saw, and understood, of Jesus' true position (that of the Son of God - the Coming King), would be in stark contrast to the suffering they were about to see him go through.

*Can moments of understanding of God's greater purpose (for our lives) help us when life becomes difficult and that purpose seems far from a reality?*

“It is a great thing to be on the mount with God, but a man only gets there in order that afterwards he may get down among the afflicted and lift them up”

Oswald Chambers

“My Utmost For His Highest

Notes: