



Mountaintop Experiences

WK 68 Mt. 17:1-13

WARM UP: *What was your most memorable mountaintop experience? Of all the places you call "God's country", what is your favorite?*

It would be hard for me to choose a favorite place... Over the years, I've had a lot of mountaintop experiences on backcountry trails and high mountain peaks in the wilderness of the Great Smokey Mountains and wilderness areas in the East, as well the Grand Tetons and Glacier National Park in the West and the Skyline Trail on Cape Briton in Canada. In between, there were other areas and places where I didn't have to travel far to see God's handiwork or to find him.

One of the things I've discovered is that you don't have to be on a mountaintop above 14,000 ft to have a mountaintop experience with God. You can just as easily have a mountaintop experience in the solitude of a cold mountain stream fishing by yourself or sitting on a sand dune at the beach watching the sunrise as it comes out of the ocean. Mountaintop experiences with God are all around you. All you need is a heart that is hungry for God and eyes that are open to see Him. Just look and listen and you will find Him.

READ ABOUT IT: Matt. 17:1-13

1. *It's been six days since Peter confessed Jesus as the Christ and Jesus predicted his own death. Why is this information important for what happens next?*
2. *When Jesus goes to the mountaintop, who does he invite to go with him as witnesses? Why only three? Why these three?*
3. *What does it mean to be transfigured? Why are Moses and Elijah included in this little meeting on the mountaintop? See Mt. 11:13.*
4. *What is Peter's response to what he is witnessing? Why is his response inappropriate? If you had been one of the three, how would you have responded? How would you describe what you were witnessing to someone else?*
5. *What is significant in what the voice from the cloud says about Jesus? (Exodus 24:15)*
6. *Why did Jesus command the disciples to keep to themselves what they have seen until after His resurrection? Do you think they understood any of what was getting ready to happen once they reached Jerusalem? Why or why not?*
7. *Why were the disciples asking about Elijah? What happened to Elijah? What is the significance of his arrival back to earth? What is it a sign of and to whom?*
8. *When did you first come to realize that Jesus was the one, above all others, and that you should listen to him?*
9. *What was your mountaintop experience with God when you realized Jesus was the one who could save you, make you right with God, and guide you through life?*
10. *How has your understanding of Jesus grown or changed since then?*