

Lesson #18- Matthew Chapter 17 Questions for Discussion:

1. Read and discuss the story of the transfiguration in the first thirteen verses of this chapter. What do you think was the greatest lesson Peter, James, and John learned?

2. In verses 14 through 21 we find the story of another miracle of Jesus where he heals a young man that is demon possessed, and lunatic. Please read the parallel passage in Mark 9:9-29 for greater understanding.
 - a. What is the commotion that Jesus and the three disciples encounter when they arrive back down from the mountain?

 - b. The nine disciples involved were chosen by Jesus and had experienced great successes in ministry before this episode. What do you think the conversation these disciples were having with the scribes sounded like and what do you think was going through their mind?

- c. The father of the demon possessed young man approaches Jesus and explains that he had brought his son for help from Jesus. Jesus obviously was up on the mountain, so the remaining nine apostles had attempted to cast out the demon, unsuccessfully. Jesus tells the man that the answer to his request is tied to his ability to believe, to which the man replies with tears, "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." What do you think this means and how does it apply to us?
- d. When the disciples get Jesus alone, they want to know "Why could not we cast him out?" Discuss Jesus' answer. What does this have to do with a mustard seed and with prayer and fasting?

3. In verses 22-23 Jesus continues preparing His followers for what is soon to happen. Why does this make them “exceeding sorry”?

4. The remainder of this chapter tells of a tax official challenging Peter about if Jesus was paying His taxes. Discuss how Jesus responds and His question and reply to Peter.