

**Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry**  
**J. Jesus Withdraws to the Gentile Regions Surrounding Galilee**

**The DAILY JESUS NEWS #131**

**11. Jesus Reinforces the Lesson of His Transfiguration**

MT 17.9-13 (Parallel Texts: MK 9.9-13; LK 9.36B)

9 <sup>MT</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them,

*"Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."*

<sup>M</sup>And they kept his saying to themselves, as they discussed with each other what *"raised from the dead"* might mean.

10 <sup>MT</sup>The disciples asked him, "Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"

11 Jesus replied, *"To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. <sup>M</sup>And how is it written that that the Son of Man should suffer many things and be treated with contempt? <sup>12</sup> <sup>MT</sup>But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished, <sup>M</sup>just as it was written of him.*

<sup>MT</sup>*"In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands."*

13 Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Immerser. <sup>L</sup>And they kept their silence, and told no one during those days about the any of the things which they had seen.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *the words of Jesus are in red italics*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	A Mountain Near Caesarea Philippi
Timeline	July (Month 30)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IV: The Great Galilean Ministry
	J. Jesus Withdraws to the Gentile Areas Surrounding Galilee
Title	11. Jesus Reinforces the Lesson of His Transfiguration

COMMENT:

Jesus knew that the transfiguration was such a supernatural event that Peter, James and John would not be able to comprehend it. They needed to experience his death and resurrection, and receive the Holy Spirit to open up their understanding before it would make sense to them. Therefore he commanded them not to speak of it until after the resurrection. They obeyed. Peter wrote about the Transfiguration at the end of his life in his second letter (II Peter 1.16-21).

As they descended the mountain, Jesus used the immediate aftermath of the Transfiguration to once again emphasize his death with Peter, James and John. The three were discussing what *"rising from the dead"* meant. As the topic of resurrection was associated in their minds with Elijah, whom they had just seen on the mount, they were apparently wondering if the Transfiguration appearance of Elijah was the fulfillment of the common teaching of the day that the prophet Elijah would rise from the dead before the Messiah appeared.

## Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry

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The Old Testament ended with the prophecy:

"SEE, I WILL SEND YOU THE PROPHET ELIJAH BEFORE THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE DAY OF THE LORD COMES."  
Mal. 4:5

Jesus explained that John the Immerser was the "Elijah" that had been predicted.

Note that Jesus pointed to the Scriptures that prophesied his sufferings twice in his response. He led his disciples to base their faith on God's Word. Just as the Old Testament predicted that a prophet like Elijah would prepare the way for the Messiah, it also prophesied his death and resurrection. Jesus wanted his disciples to more fully understand the massive bedrock of revelation about him as Messiah that His Father had laid down in the Scriptures.

The Transfiguration was intended by God to reinforce the Scriptural testimony in the Law and Prophets about the death and resurrection of the Messiah. That was what Peter concluded about the Transfiguration in his second letter: *"And so we have the prophetic word made more certain, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place..."* II Pet. 1:19 Jesus was teaching this truth in today's reading.

The three apostles did not understand the Scriptures, or Jesus yet as they descended the Mount. They were still not *"listening to Jesus"* about his death, as the Father had commanded them to do. We will see Jesus continuing to teach his disciples about his cross throughout the rest of his ministry. He never gave up on them. Jesus continued to demonstrate the way *"love bears all things,"* and *"endures all things."* (I Cor. 13:7)

#### APPLICATION:

We, too, often fail to understand and obey the Scriptures, even after repeated exposure to them. We are like the original disciples in this. That is why the example of Jesus loving them, and continuing to teach and lead them...even when they did not understand him...is so important.

The gospels show us disciples who were in process--following Jesus, but misunderstanding so much, and far from complete in their obedience to his word. Their salvation was in the perfection and grace of their Savior and Lord, not their own innate ability to obey. And so it is today.

*What truths of the Scriptures are you struggling to understand and obey? How will you pray, and rely upon the Holy Spirit to enlighten your understanding regarding these Scriptures more?*

*What friend or Bible teacher can you discuss these Scriptures with? What study resources will you access?*

*Give thanks that Jesus loves you for your continual struggle to know and obey his Word, and is with you in the growth process.*