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**Stories of the Master**

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~ **A Night of Vision and Glory** ~

You can learn much more about this story by doing these three things:

1. Read Matthew 16:21-17:8.
2. Discover key cultural and historical insights.
3. Answer the reflective questions.

**1. Read the text of the story.**

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<b>Matthew 16:21-17:8 NASB</b>	<b>Matthew 16:21-17:8 ERV</b>
<p><sup>21</sup> From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. <sup>22</sup> Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “God forbid <i>it</i>, Lord! This shall never happen to You.” <sup>23</sup> But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”</p> <p><sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.</p> <p><sup>28</sup> “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”</p> <p>17 Six days later Jesus *took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and *led them up on a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup> And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. <sup>3</sup> And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. <sup>4</sup> Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, “This is My</p>	<p><sup>21</sup> From that time Jesus began telling his followers that he must go to Jerusalem. He explained that the older Jewish leaders, the leading priests, and the teachers of the law would make him suffer many things. And he told his followers that he must be killed. Then, on the third day, he would be raised from death.</p> <p><sup>22</sup> Peter took Jesus away from the other followers to talk to him alone. He began to criticize him. He said, “God save you from those sufferings, Lord! That will never happen to you!”</p> <p><sup>23</sup> Then Jesus said to Peter, “Get away from me, Satan! You are not helping me! You don’t care about the same things God does. You care only about things that people think are important.”</p> <p><sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his followers, “If any of you want to be my follower, you must stop thinking about yourself and what you want. You must be willing to carry the cross that is given to you for following me. <sup>25</sup> Any of you who try to save the life you have will lose it. But you who give up your life for me will find true life. <sup>26</sup> It is worth nothing for you to have the whole world if you yourself are lost. You could never pay enough to buy back your life. <sup>27</sup> The Son of Man will come again with his Father’s glory and with his angels. And he will reward everyone for what they have done. <sup>28</sup> Believe me when I say that there are some people standing here who will see the Son of Man coming with his kingdom before they die.”</p> <p>17 Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James, and John the brother of James and went up on a high mountain. They were all alone there. <sup>2</sup> While these followers watched</p>

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beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"<sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard *this*, they fell face down to the ground and were terrified.<sup>7</sup> And Jesus came to *them* and touched them and said, "Get up, and do not be afraid."<sup>8</sup> And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone.

him, Jesus was changed. His face became bright like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.<sup>3</sup> Then two men were there, talking with him. They were Moses and Elijah.

<sup>4</sup> Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you want, I will put three tents here—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

<sup>5</sup> While Peter was talking, a bright cloud came over them. A voice came from the cloud and said, "This is my Son, the one I love. I am very pleased with him. Obey him!"

<sup>6</sup> The followers with Jesus heard this voice. They were very afraid, so they fell to the ground.<sup>7</sup> But Jesus came to them and touched them. He said, "Stand up. Don't be afraid."<sup>8</sup> The followers looked up, and they saw that Jesus was now alone.

## 2. Discover key cultural and historical insights.

- No one knows which mountain Jesus went to. Here is what the *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* says about the location.

"A long-standing tradition places it at Mt. Tabor. Since isolation would have been difficult here (there is evidence that a Roman fortress existed at the summit around the time of Christ ... and since it is at a considerable distance from Caesarea Philippi, which is the location of the immediately preceding event in the Gospels, it seems wise to seek another site. Mt. Hermon, near Caesarea Philippi, offers a possibility. Problems attend this theory also, however, including the height of 2,813 meters or 9,232 feet (difficult to reach if the group went near the top) and the improbability (though not impossibility) that upon his descent from mountain some 30 miles north of the Sea of Galilee Jesus would have met a crowd that even included scribes (Mk 9:14)... There is another mountain site that was more isolated than Mt. Tabor and more accessible than Mt. Hermon. That is Mount Meiron, located in Galilee some eight or so miles northwest of the Sea of Galilee. It is, in fact, within Galilee itself and boasts the highest peak within Palestine proper. Meiron later became a center of Jewish mysticism and some stories developed there about the future coming of the Messiah in company with Elijah. It would have been natural for crowds, including scribes, to have been near its base...."

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**Answer these reflective questions.**

**Why do you think Jesus gave his disciples this vision of his glory? Do you think it had anything to do with his telling them that he was going to Jerusalem and would die? If so, what would be the connection?**

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**Why do you think Jesus took only three of the twelve with him to the mountain?**

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**What would be the significance of Moses, the law-giver, and Elijah, the prophet, appearing with Jesus on the mountain?**

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**When the cloud surrounded them all, the Voice said, “This is My Son, My Chosen One, listen to Him.” What do you think God was trying to say to Peter, James, and John? Is there a message for us as well?**

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