

The Life and Mission of Jesus Christ on Earth

Lesson Twenty-four -- Matthew 17:1-27; Mark 9:2-32; Luke 9:28-45

Summary of Lesson

In our previous lesson Jesus and His disciples were in Caesarea Philippi. In this lesson we see Him leaving this city after a stay of about six days, taking with Him three of the disciples and going up into a high mountain (probably Mt. Hermon) where the three disciples are privileged to behold Jesus as He was transfigured with two Old Testament prophets, following which Jesus explained to them the relationship of "the Elijah to come" and John the Baptist. When they came back down from the mountain they saw a large multitude gathered around the rest of the disciples who had been trying to cast a dumb spirit out of a boy. The boy's father then begged Jesus to heal his son, which Jesus did and then rebuked His disciples for their lack of faith. Jesus and His disciples then came back to Galilee where Jesus predicted His crucifixion. Coming into Capernaum, Jesus was faced with the problem of whether tribute should be paid to Caesar, and issue that was resolved when Peter caught a fish in the mouth of which was found a coin with Caesar's inscription on it.

Matthew 17:1-27

{1} Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; {2} and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. {3} And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. {4} Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." {5} While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" {6} And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. {7} But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." {8} When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. {9} Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead." {10} And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" {11} Jesus answered

and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. {12} "But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." {13} Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist. {14} And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, {15} "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. {16} "So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." {17} Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." {18} And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. {19} Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" {20} So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. {21} "However,

this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." {22} Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, {23} "and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful. {24} When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, "Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?" {25} He said, "Yes." And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?" {26} Peter said to Him, "From strangers." Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. {27} "Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you."

Mark 9:2-32

{2} Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. {3} His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them. {4} And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. {5} Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"; {6} because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid. {7} And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" {8} Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus with themselves. {9} Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead. {10} So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant. {11} And they asked Him, saying, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" {12}

Then He answered and told them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and restores all things. And how is it written concerning the Son of Man, that He must suffer many things and be treated with contempt? {13} "But I say to you that Elijah has also come, and they did to him whatever they wished, as it is written of him." {14} And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them. {15} Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him. {16} And He asked the scribes, "What are you discussing with them?" {17} Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. {18} "And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." {19} He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." {20} Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. {21} So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. {22} "And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." {23} Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." {24} Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" {25} When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" {26} Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." {27} But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. {28} And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" {29} So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

{30} Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. {31} For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day." {32} But they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him.

Luke 9:28-45

{28} Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. {29} As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. {30} And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, {31} who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. {32} But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him. {33} Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, that Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"; not knowing what he said. {34} While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. {35} And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" {36} When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen. {37} Now it happened on the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, that a great multitude met Him. {38} Suddenly a man from the multitude cried out, saying, "Teacher, I implore You, look on my son, for he is my only child. {39} "And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out; it convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and it departs from him with great difficulty, bruising him. {40} "So I implored Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." {41} Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." {42} And as he was still coming, the demon threw him down and convulsed him. Then Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed

the child, and gave him back to his father. {43} And they were all amazed at the majesty of God. But while everyone marveled at all the things which Jesus did, He said to His disciples, {44} "Let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men." {45} But they did not understand this saying, and it was hidden from them so that they did not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this saying.

Questions on Lesson Twenty-four

1. Whom did the tribute-takers approach about Jesus' tribute?
2. What is the significance of the words "hear ye him" spoken at the transfiguration?
3. How many children did the man, out of whose son Jesus cast the dumb spirit, have?
4. What three disciples went up into the mountain with Jesus?
5. How white was the raiment of Jesus at His transfiguration?
6. When Jesus spoke of Elijah (Elias), concerning whom did the disciples understand Him to be speaking?
7. Why were the disciples of Jesus unable to cast out the dumb spirit?
8. Describe the appearance of Jesus at His transfiguration?
9. Where was Jesus when He paid the tribute for Peter and Himself?
10. After Jesus had cast out the dumb spirit from the boy, what did the people suppose?
11. How much time had elapsed between the evens of our last lesson and this lesson?
12. What caused the disciples to be exceedingly sorrowful?
13. What instructions did Jesus give the disciples who had witnessed the transfiguration?
14. Who appeared with Jesus at His transfiguration?
15. What were the three disciples doing at the beginning of the transfiguration?
16. What testimony did God bear at the transfiguration?
17. What was Peter's immediate reaction to the transfiguration?