

Glory and faith

Matthew 17:1-13

Jesus said to his disciples, *“If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.”*

But how can we really be sure that this is how things are?

A glimpse of glory

Read Matthew 17:1-13

- What do Peter, James and John see?
- What is the significant about the appearance of Moses and Elijah, first for Jesus, then for the disciples?
- What were they talking to Jesus about? (Luke 9:31)

At the end of [Matthew 16](#), Jesus promised that some of the disciples would see his victory as Son of Man before they died. We discover later in Matthew that this victory was won through Jesus' death and resurrection. But here, three of them get to have a foretaste of his future glory, a glory that prophets like Moses and Elijah had longed to see (see [1 Peter 1:10-12](#)). It's terrifying, and the disciples want to hide from what they see, but it guarantees what Jesus has promised.

- What do Peter, James and John hear?
- What does the voice confirm regarding who Jesus is, and what he must do?

God says to the disciples: “Listen to him!”

- On the way down the mountain what was the last thing Jesus talked to the disciples about?

Once again, we see the seriousness of what Jesus has said in [16:21-28](#). Jesus must suffer, die and be raised. The disciples must follow in the same path and pattern.

Here, we also see again the urgency. Things are coming to a head. Elijah has already come (in John the Baptist) to prepare the way ([17:10-13](#)).

- At what time will all this start to make sense, does Jesus suggest ([verse 9](#))?

APPLY

- What might it mean for you to give up your own way and take up your cross to follow Jesus?
- What is Jesus asking you to give up in order to follow him?
- What is Jesus asking you to take up in order to follow him?
- How are you going with listening to Jesus?
- What helps you to listen to Jesus?

PRAY

We live in the time after the resurrection of Jesus. He reigns in glory - his victory over death has been won. Ask that you might see clearly how urgent and serious it is to listen to Jesus.