

DAY TWENTY-ONE 21

To be transfigured included several things. It appears that Christ was shining like the sun, lifted up in the air, and that He appeared with two people who had already been dead for hundreds of years.

Moses was the "Law-giver" and Elijah was the prophet who was swept up into heaven without experiencing death.

The tabernacles or "booths" were reminiscent of when the Jews celebrated God's wilderness dwelling place as He brought them out of the land of Egypt into the Promised land.

John the Baptist was beheaded at the whim of Herod's wife's daughter. He never saw the end of what God had begun through him. Jesus said that John was the "Elijah" that would precede Himself. This was spoken hundreds of years earlier by Isaiah the prophet.



UP IN THE AIR

Matthew 15:29-31

Leaving there, Jesus went along by the Sea of Galilee, and having gone up to the mountain, He was sitting there. And great multitudes came to Him, bringing with them those who were lame, handicapped, blind, unable to speak, as well as many others, and they laid them down at His feet; and He healed them, so that the crowd was amazed as they saw the silent begin speaking, the handicapped restored, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel!

And sending away the multitudes, He got into the boat, and came to the region of Magadan.

Matthew 17:1-13

And six days later Jesus took Peter and James and John his brother, and brought them up to a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. And Peter responded and 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."

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and amazingly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!" And when the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were very afraid. And Jesus came to them and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid."

And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, except Jesus. And as they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead." And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things; but I say to you, that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.

*These are all cities
who witnessed firsthand the
amazing power of God in
Christ. Many turned a
deaf spiritual ear despite
God's powerful voice
among them.*

*Jesus had a very
special relationship with the
Father. We can come to Jesus
and find the Father without
jumping through any
religious "hoops."
All we have to do is bear the
burden of believing in the
One whom He has sent.*

COME TO ME

Matthew 11:20-30

Then He began to reproach the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. Nevertheless I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment, than for you.

"And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hell; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you."

At that time Jesus answered and said, "I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You hid these things from the wise and intelligent and revealed them to babes. Yes, Father, for it was pleasing in Your sight. All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son, except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.

"Come to Me all who are weary, carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My load is light."

DAY TWENTY-TWO 22

LIVING WATER

John 7:1-36

The “feast of booths” was one of the major celebrations of the Hebrew calendar, commemorating God’s deliverance of the nation from the powerful hand of Pharaoh, King of Egypt.

Jesus needed to be killed because He was undermining everything the religious leaders held near and dear. The people wanted political freedom much more than soul freedom, so they, too, would be willing to crucify Him.

While human education was revered then, as it is now, it was not essential to becoming a servant of Christ’s.

After these things Jesus was walking in Galilee; for He was unwilling to move about the region of Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill Him.

Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was at hand. His blood brothers therefore said to Him, “Leave here, and go into Judea, so Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing. For no one does anything in secret when he himself wishes to be known publicly. If You are going to do these things, show Yourself to the world.” For not even His brothers were believing in Him.

Jesus said to them, “My time is not yet at hand, but your time is always opportune. The world cannot hate you; but it hates Me because I tell the truth about it, that its deeds are evil. Go up to the feast yourselves; I am not going up to this feast because My time has not yet fully come.” And having said these things to them, He stayed in Galilee.

But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He went up, not publicly, but in secret. The Jews were looking for Him at the feast, and were saying, “Where is He?” And there was much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him. Some were saying, “He is a good man” and others were saying, “No, on the contrary, He leads the people astray.” Yet no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jews.

But in the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and began to teach. The Jews were astonished, saying, “How has this man become educated, having never been formally trained?” Jesus answered them, and said, “My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If any man is willing to do His will, he shall know the teaching, whether it is from God, or whether I speak from Myself. He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory, but the one who

Circumcision was the sign of the covenant that God gave to Abraham. This made the Jews physically different from all the other nations.

Abraham was saved by faith and not by circumcision. So the "law of faith" eclipses the external sign of the covenant: circumcision.

The Sabbath was the day each week that the Jews were to rest and reflect on what God was doing in their lives. The religious Jews were so hard-hearted that they were defining Jesus' healing of others as "work" on the "Sabbath."

The Jews were living in every nation under heaven. This was a result of the two captivities (Assyrian and Babylonian) six hundred years earlier. This

is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. Did not Moses give you the Law, and yet none of you carries out the Law? Why do you seek to kill Me?"

The multitude answered, "You are possessed by a demon! Who is plotting to kill You?" Jesus answered and said to them, "I did one deed, and you are all amazed. Moses has given you circumcision (not because it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and on the Sabbath you circumcise a man. If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the Law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made an entire man well on the Sabbath? Do not judge according to appearance, but with righteous judgment."

Therefore some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, "Is this not the man whom they are plotting to kill? He is speaking publicly, and they are saying nothing to Him. The rulers do not really know that this is the Messiah, do they? We know where this man is from; but when the Christ does come, no one knows where He is from."

YOU KNOW ME!

Jesus therefore cried out in the temple, teaching and saying, "You both know Me and know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. I know Him; because I am from Him, and He sent Me." They were seeking therefore to seize Him; and no man laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.

But many of the multitude believed in Him; and they were saying, "When the Messiah comes, He won't perform more signs than the ones which this man has, will He?" The Pharisees heard the multitude muttering these things about Him; and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to seize Him. Therefore Jesus said, "For a little while longer I am with you, then I will return to the One who sent Me. You will look for Me, and shall not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come."

The Jews therefore said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we shall not find Him? He is not intending to go to the dispersion among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks, is He? What does He mean when He says, 'You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come?'"

*The prophet...Elijah
would return before the
Messiah (Malachi 5).*

*The Messiah...the Anointed
One would deliver Israel.*

*This is the same
Nicodemus who came to
Jesus at night in John 3. He
was a leader of the Jews.*

John 7:37-53

Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'" But He was speaking of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet poured out, because Jesus had not yet ascended to the Father and been glorified.

When some of the multitude heard these words they were saying, "This certainly is the Prophet." Others were saying, "This is the Messiah." Still others were saying, "Surely the Christ is not going to come from Galilee, is He? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was from?"

So there arose a division in the multitude because of Him. And some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid hands on Him. The officers therefore came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to them, "Why did you not bring Him?" The officers answered, "We have never heard anyone speak like this man speaks." The Pharisees therefore answered them, "You have not also been led astray, have you? None of the rulers or Pharisees has believed in Him, has he? But this Law-ignorant multitude is accursed."

Nicodemus said to them (this is the same man who had come to Him before at night, and he was one of the religious leaders), "Our Law does not judge a man, unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?" They answered and said to him, "You are not also from Galilee, are you? Search the Scriptures and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee." And everyone went to his home.