

Muted Glory

Matthew 17:1-13

Stage 1 Learning

Creation → Fall → God's people & Messiah → Re-Creation



Stage 4 Learning

God's people fall short

The Messiah (Jesus) must suffer and die on the cross before being raised to glory

Jesus' disciples must also suffer and take up their cross before being raised to glory

And God will give glimpses of Glory

Moses

"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him." Deuteronomy 18:15

Elijah

"See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction." Malachi 4:5-6

Matthew 17:1-3

Matthew 17:4

Matthew 17:5-8

Matthew 17:9

Matthew 17:10-13

Three Audiences

God → Peter, James, and John

Jesus is glorious Son of God, even in His ordinariness, and suffering, and dying

Matthew → early Jewish Christians

Jesus is the Messiah, even in suffering and death

The Church is God's people, even in its lowliness and persecution (no temple, priests, sacrifices, ...)

Jesus → Church throughout the ages

Our journey of following Jesus includes lowliness and seeming failure, and sometimes persecution

The Big Idea

The unending and overwhelming glory of God is often clothed in lowliness and suffering until Jesus returns in unmuted glory



What are we to do?

Trust in God's invisible glory

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Rejoice in the glimpses of glory God gives

A foretaste, an encouragement
Yet we live by faith, not sight

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. Where is it challenging for you to trust in the unseen glory of God?
2. In what ways might we be assume that, if we could just do the Christian life right, we would experience less lowliness and suffering? What might be problematic in this thinking?
3. What does it look like to fix our eyes, not on what is seen, but on what is unseen? How can we help each other do that?

Conversation starters with people in daily life, whether or not they are Christians

Jesus seemed to be just a human being, albeit very good and able to do great things. How do you react to the claim that He is God in human form?