

Following Jesus Morning Message
Are You Listening?
Matthew 17:1-8

- I. Jesus has shown who he is (Narrative)
 - A. The confession of Peter and the Transfiguration are the “beginning of the end”
 1. These passages introduce the final narratives of Jesus life
 2. It is no coincidence this marks the middle of our series, since the Gospels increasingly detail the end of Jesus ministry (rightly!)
 3. The Disciples, Jesus closest followers, are starting to make some decisions about him
 - a) Peter has confessed him – Matthew 16
 - b) Peter, James, and John are leaders – Matthew 17
 - c) Judas is contemplating betrayal – John 6:70
 - B. Jesus has just done some amazing things before the disciples
 1. Feeding of the Five Thousand
 2. Walking on Water
 - C. Jesus has preached some tough messages
 1. Eat my Flesh, Drink my Blood – John 6:53
 2. Whoever saves his life will lose it, whoever loses his life for my sake will gain it – Matthew 16:25
 - D. The Disciples are putting things together
 1. You are the Christ, the Son of God – Matthew 16:16
 2. To whom else could we go? You have the words of eternal life.
 - E. Jesus takes the three to the mountain
 1. Peter, James, and John
 - a) Jesus has chosen these guys for hard ministry
 - b) Jesus is taking extra time with them - Discipleship
 2. Being given a chance to REALLY get it
 - F. Jesus appears before them in glory
 1. Jesus transformed, metamorphosis, like a butterfly
 2. Jesus appeared with Moses and Elijah
 3. What can we gather from this: Jesus is God
 - G. Peter
 1. Peter wasn't really paying attention
 2. Peter acts first and thinks never
 3. Peter is, as he so often is, an example of what NOT to do

II. Wrong Response: Do religious things to please God

A. Peter wasn't paying attention – Mark 9:6

1. Peter just started saying things, even though he didn't know what he was talking about
2. Peter was half paying attention and then jumped to conclusions

B. Peter does the wrong thing

1. Peter is trying to do something nice!
2. Making a tent for someone isn't bad!
3. But it isn't the right response
4. The reason you do what you do is what really matters
 - a) Building a house for Jesus is good... if that is what advances Jesus
 - b) Giving to Jesus is good... if you are giving because of what Jesus did for you
 - c) Doing good things for Jesus is good... if you are doing them because you are restored in Christ
 - (1) People give and act in certain ways to earn God's favor. It doesn't work that way.
 - (2) Your relationship with God is entirely based on your relationship with Jesus Christ

C. Peter doesn't respond the right way

1. Peter is still confused as to who Jesus is
2. Peter missed the point... Here is God, do what he wants
3. Peter wanted to do nice things, but that wasn't what he was supposed to do in that moment.
4. Peter was supposed to LISTEN
 - a) Peter, like every single one of us, started apart from God
 - b) Peter, like every single one of us, was a sinner who didn't understand his problem
 - c) Peter, like every single one of us, needed Jesus to save him

III. Right Response: Listen and Obey Jesus, which leads to "religious" things

A. God intervenes to make things clear

1. God appears the way that he did on Sinai
2. The Cloud appeared, and the disciples hit the deck
3. God himself spoke!

B. **What God says: Listen to Jesus**

1. Moses' presence reminds me of something that Moses preached to the Children of Israel

2. "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall [listen]... I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him." – Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19

a) There would be a prophet like Moses, and the people would listen to him

b) The voice of God the Father was too much, so Jesus was needed

C. If you listen to Jesus, and you BELIEVE he really is God, then you OBEY

1. You cannot give to God to fix your sin problem

2. You cannot do enough good

3. You can't build enough tents, in the right place, to please God

4. You CAN listen and obey

a) Listen to God's word

b) Obey God's word

c) Deuteronomy 6:4-5 - "**Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is on Lord, and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all they might.**"