

THE ULTIMATE MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE

Matthew 16:28–17:13

There are certain sections of Scripture that seem especially holy, accounts like Moses at the burning bush, the Hebrews at the foot of Mount Sinai, the Christ-welcoming night in Bethlehem, and the women at the empty tomb. These are sacred scenes that invite God's people nearer God's glory, power, and grace. The transfiguration of Jesus likewise falls into that magnificent category. In his book, *The Training of the Twelve*, A. B. Bruce suggests that "the transfiguration is one of those passages in the Saviour's earthly history which [a preacher] would rather pass over in reverent silence." It's as if *handling* it and *explaining* it risks adding filth *to* and distracting *from* something otherwise pristine and breathtaking, akin to throwing a rock into a calm, silent, and picturesque mountain lake. But handle it we must as this is a text that is as *essential* as it is *awesome*, a text by which God's people need to be both dazzled *and* shaped.

Confirmation #1: The Kingdom *is* Coming

16:28–7:4, 9–13
Mal 4:5–6; Acts 1:6; 2 Pet 1:16–18

Confirmation #2: The Messiah *is* Matchless

17:2, 4–8
Deut 18:15; Psa 2:7; Isa 42:1

Confirmation #3: The Son *Must* Suffer

17:9–13
16:21; Isa 53:5–6, 11–12

Confirmation #4: His Followers *Need Not* Fear

17:7
John 16:33; 1 Pet 4:13