

## The Transfiguration of Our Lord: Suffering Before Glory [Matthew 17:1-9]

The Agony and the Ecstasy is a novel-biography of Michelangelo.

- The history of Jesus is more complex taking an opposite turn.
- Yet in the transfiguration, we catch a glimpse of the glory and majesty Jesus shared with the Father before coming to earth to save us

Our Matthew text is in lock-step with Exodus and Deuteronomy

- Moses reflects the glory of God - Jesus shines as the glory of God
- God speaks from a cloud in Exodus 24, Deuteronomy 18, and here in Matthew with one consistent message – *listen to my son*

Peter, James, and John probably think they are going to pray w/Jesus as they ascend the mountain

- Larry Walters
- Jesus takes the disciples to the doorstep of eternity.

Jesus was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. <sup>3</sup> And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

Do you see the difference in the two responses to the manifestation of divine glory and presence?

- The human response of Peter versus the response of God

The transition of Jesus back to the Father requires suffering after the glimpse of transfiguration glory

- When the disciples heard the voice of God, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, Rise, and have no fear.” <sup>8</sup> And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus
- The order is intentional: Rise and have no fear
- Peter, James, and John will again accompany Jesus on an important mission to the Garden of Gethsemane

The greatest agony is ahead for Jesus

- *The Son of Man is delivered into the hands of men and they will kill him* [Matthew 17: 22-23]
- Like Peter; you can hear God’s voice from heaven
- Not on a mountain top but in the Word of God by faith alone in Christ