

# PULPIT COMPANION

GLORY  
HAS  
COME

MATTHEW 17:1-9

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This powerful exploration of the Transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-9 reveals that moments of divine revelation are designed not for us to freeze in comfort, but to propel us forward in faith.

The message centers on the profound truth that Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a mountain where His glory was unveiled, His face shining like the sun, His clothes becoming white as light. This wasn't Jesus becoming divine; it was the divinity already within Him being revealed. Like metamorphic rock transformed under intense heat and pressure, Jesus showed that glory exists within even when circumstances press hard against us. Moses and Elijah appeared, representing the Law and the Prophets, affirming that all of Scripture points to Christ. When Peter wanted to build three tents and stay in that glorious moment, God interrupted with a cloud and declared, 'This is my beloved Son... listen to Him.'

The lesson is clear: we cannot build tents where God gives us testimony. We're called to move through moments of revelation, not camp in them. Too many of us retrace old memories instead of stepping into the new moments God has prepared. The disciples needed to see glory before grief, to witness Christ's radiance before witnessing His crucifixion, so they would remember that what looked like weakness on the cross was actually mercy holding back brilliance.

When all the voices fade and the cloud lifts, only Jesus remains. He is the glory that has come, and listening to Him above culture, tradition, and every other voice is what transforms our lives.





## SCRIPTURES FROM PULPIT AI

### Explicitly Mentioned References

1. **Matthew 17:1-9** - The Transfiguration (primary text)
2. **Exodus 24:15-16** - Moses on Mount Sinai for six days
3. **Luke 9:28** - Jesus takes Peter, James, and John to pray
4. **Luke 9:28-31** - The Transfiguration account in Luke
5. **Exodus 34:29** - Moses' face shone after talking with God
6. **Revelation 1:16** - Jesus' face like the sun shining in full strength
7. **Exodus 40:35** - The glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle
8. **Deuteronomy 18:15** - The Lord will raise up a prophet
9. **Matthew 16:22** - Peter rebukes Jesus about the cross

### Alluded to or Thematically Referenced

1. **Psalm 118:24** - "This is the day that the Lord has made"
2. **Hebrews 13:5** - "He will never leave you nor forsake you"
3. **Numbers 6:24-26** - The Aaronic blessing (used in closing benediction)
4. **2 Kings 2:11** - Elijah taken to heaven (referenced regarding Elijah never tasting death)
5. **Deuteronomy 34:5-6** - Moses' death and burial by God





## DEVOTIONAL

### Day 1: The Invitation to Go Higher

**Reading:** Matthew 17:1-2; Exodus 24:15-18

**Devotional:** God calls us upward—not to isolate us, but to illuminate us. Just as Jesus took Peter, James, and John up the mountain, God invites you to a place where the noise dies down and clarity breaks through. This isn't about perfection; it's about being willing to be prepared. Prayer becomes your mountain, the place where revelation flows. What old conversations, memories, or voices are keeping you from ascending? Today, God is calling you higher so you can receive something new. Don't let yesterday's recordings drown out tomorrow's revelation. Release what weighs you down. The climb may feel uncomfortable, but that's not destruction, that's elevation. Answer the invitation: "God, I'm ready to rise."

### Day 2: Glory Revealed Under Pressure

**Reading:** Matthew 17:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Revelation 1:12-16

**Devotional:** Jesus was transfigured—metamorphosed—revealing what was already within Him. Like rock transformed under intense heat and pressure, Christ's glory surfaced not because something new was added, but because what was always there became visible. You are going through pressure right now, but understand this: suffering doesn't cancel glory; it reveals it. Before the disciples saw Jesus mocked and crucified, they saw Him shine like the sun. When your circumstances look dim, remember the mountain. What looks like limitation is often glory under restraint. The light you thought was weak is actually mercy holding back full brilliance. Your season of confusion is about to bring clarification. Glory is coming to the surface in your life.





## DEVOTIONAL

### Day 3: Don't Freeze the Moment

**Reading:** Matthew 17:4; Luke 9:28-36; Matthew 16:21-23

**Devotional:** Peter wanted to build tents and stay on the mountain where it felt good. But God never intended that moment for permanence, it was preparation for movement. How many of us are trying to camp where God meant us to carry revelation forward? We freeze moments God designed us to move through. We build monuments to memories instead of marching into new missions. The kingdom is never built in comfort. Don't settle where God stirred you. Don't construct tents where God gave you testimony. Revelation isn't meant to be housed; it's meant to be lived out. Your past breakthrough was beautiful, but God has a new assignment. Stop retracing yesterday and start receiving today. Get ready to move, follow, and obey.

### Day 4: Listen to Him Above All Voices

**Reading:** Matthew 17:5; Deuteronomy 18:15; 2 Peter 1:16-18

**Devotional:** From the cloud, the Father spoke: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him." God didn't dismiss Moses or Elijah; He declared who has final authority. In a world screaming for your attention, culture, tradition, social media, even well-meaning family, God recenters you on Jesus. When Jesus speaks, every other voice must yield. Culture will advise you, tradition may echo, but only Christ's commands bring life. Who are you listening to? YouTube prophets or the Prophet? Instagram theology or biblical truth? Heaven has already decided who you should follow. His name is Jesus. Today, tune out the noise. Turn down the volume on everything competing for your soul. Fix your eyes, focus your faith, and follow the Son of God alone.





## DEVOTIONAL

### Day 5: Jesus Only, The Glory That Remains

**Reading:** Matthew 17:8-9; Hebrews 12:1-2; Philippians 3:7-11

**Devotional:** When the cloud lifted, only Jesus remained. Not Moses. Not Elijah. Jesus only. This is the ultimate truth: when everything else fades, when suffering appears, when systems fail, when people disappoint, Jesus remains. When shame tries to name you, Jesus gives you a new name. When guilt slows your progress, Jesus offers grace. When anxiety won't log off, Jesus brings peace. When comparisons steal your joy, Jesus restores your identity. The transfiguration teaches us that Christ is not another chapter in God's story, He is the conclusion. Everything pointed to Him. Everything finds completion in Him. Today, lift your eyes. See only Jesus. He's in your camp, on your team, shining through your mess. The glory has come, and His name is Jesus. Walk as a new creation.





# SMALL GROUP GUIDE:

## Glory Has Come

### Opening Prayer:

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to receive His word and to help the group see His glory in their current season.

### Key Scripture:

Matthew 17:1-9

### Icebreaker Question

**Question:** Share about a time when you had to "restart" something in your life. How did that experience shape you?

### Key Takeaways from the Sermon

#### 1. Don't Freeze Moments God Meant You to Move Through

- God calls us to new moments, not to stay stuck in old memories
- Revelation requires us to let go of what's weighing us down
- Some people aren't ready for the new thing God has for us

#### 2. Glory Under Restraint

- What looks like weakness may actually be glory holding back
- Jesus revealed His divine nature before the disciples saw Him suffer
- God shows us glory before grief to prepare us for what's ahead

#### 3. Listen to Jesus Above All Other Voices

- Culture, tradition, and even well-meaning people can mislead us
- The Father's command: "This is my beloved Son... listen to Him"
- When the cloud lifted, only Jesus remained

#### 4. Revelation Comes Through Prayer and Focus

- Jesus took only three disciples because not everyone was ready
- Prayer positions us to receive what God wants to deposit in us
- Some clarity only comes when we pull away with Jesus





# SMALL GROUP GUIDE:

## Glory Has Come

### Discussion Questions:

#### Section 1: The Invitation to Go Higher

1. What "old moments" or past memories do you find yourself constantly revisiting? How might these be preventing you from receiving God's new moment for your life?
2. The pastor mentioned that "some revelations are not for the crowd." Have you experienced a time when God pulled you aside for a private revelation? What made that moment significant?
3. How consistent is your prayer life? What distracts you from spending focused time with God?

#### Section 2: Transformation and Glory

1. The sermon explained metamorphism, how intense heat and pressure reveal what's already inside the rock. What "pressure" are you currently experiencing, and how might God be using it to reveal His glory in you?
2. Peter wanted to see "glory without the cross." In what areas of your life do you want kingdom benefits without kingdom sacrifice?
3. How does knowing that Jesus showed His disciples glory before they witnessed His suffering change your perspective on difficult seasons you're facing?

#### Section 3: Whose Voice Are You Listening To?

1. Make a list: What voices compete for your attention daily? (social media, family expectations, cultural trends, past failures, etc.) Which voice is loudest right now?
2. The pastor said, "Don't follow me. I'm trying to follow Him." How do you balance respecting spiritual leaders while keeping Jesus as your ultimate authority?
3. God interrupted Peter mid-sentence to redirect focus to Jesus. Has God ever interrupted your plans or ideas? How did you respond?





# SMALL GROUP GUIDE:

## Glory Has Come

### Discussion Questions:

#### Section 4: Moving Forward

1. Peter wanted to build three tents and stay on the mountain. Where in your life are you trying to "build a tent" instead of moving forward in obedience?
2. What does it practically look like to "fix your eyes on Jesus only" in your daily life—at work, at home, in relationships?





# SMALL GROUP GUIDE:

## Glory Has Come

### Practical Applications (15-20 minutes)

#### This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to implement this week:

#### Option 1: Morning Focus Time

- Spend 15 minutes each morning in prayer before checking your phone
- Ask God: "What new thing do You want to show me today?"
- Journal what you hear

#### Option 2: Voice Audit

- Track what voices you listen to most (podcasts, social media, friends, Scripture)
- At the end of the week, evaluate: Is Jesus' voice the loudest?
- Make one practical change to prioritize His voice

#### Option 3: Let Go Exercise

- Write down one "old moment" or past situation you keep revisiting
- Pray specifically about releasing it to God
- Replace the memory with a Scripture promise about your future

#### Option 4: Accountability Partnership

- Find another man in the group to check in with this week
- Share one area where you need to "move through" instead of "freeze"
- Pray for each other and follow up mid-week

### Group Activity: "Only Jesus" Reflection (10 minutes)

Materials needed: Index cards and pens

1. Give each person an index card
2. On one side, write: "What needs to be removed so I can see Jesus clearly?"
3. On the other side, write: "Jesus is..." (complete the sentence based on what He means to you personally)
4. Share with the group if comfortable, or keep private as a prayer commitment
5. Keep the card visible this week (dashboard, mirror, desk) as a reminder





## SMALL GROUP GUIDE: Glory Has Come

### Closing Discussion (5 minutes)

**Final Question:** If you truly believed that "glory has come" and Jesus is with you in your current situation, what would you do differently this week?

### Prayer Time (10 minutes)

#### Suggested Prayer Format:

**Praise:** Thank God for His glory and for revealing Himself to us

**Confession:** Acknowledge areas where we've listened to other voices above Jesus or tried to freeze moments instead of moving forward

**Intercession:** Pray for specific needs in the group, those facing pressure, those stuck in the past, those needing to hear God's voice clearly

**Commitment:** Ask God to help each person take their practical application seriously this week

### Memory Verse for the Week

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

Matthew 17:5 (ESV)

### Leader Notes:

- **Be Sensitive:** Some members may be dealing with serious trauma or "old moments" that require professional help. Be prepared to offer pastoral care resources.
- **Create Safety:** Emphasize that the group is a judgment-free zone. Not everyone needs to share everything.
- **Follow Up:** Check in with group members during the week, especially those who seemed particularly moved by the message.
- **Stay Focused:** The sermon was passionate and covered many topics. Keep redirecting to the main theme: seeing Jesus' glory and listening to His voice above all others.
- **Practical Over Theoretical:** Push for specific, actionable commitments rather than general spiritual language.





## SMALL GROUP GUIDE: Glory Has Come

### **Additional Resources:**

- Encourage members to re-listen to the sermon during the week
- Suggest reading the entire Gospel of Matthew chapter 17
- Recommend journaling about personal "transfiguration moments" where they've seen God's glory

*Next Week: Have members share testimonies about what happened when they implemented their practical application.*

