



# The Trust Factor: Depending on God

## Foretaste of Glory: Trusting Jesus with the Mission

### Matthew 17:1-9

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**Big Idea:** Through this extraordinarily divine revelation, may we encounter the resurrected and Glorified Jesus. This passage hopefully inspires us to seek a personal experience with the living God, consider what life is all about, and courageously trust Him with our mission.

#### 1. Context = Intensification:

- Jesus Pronouncements, Peter's Declaration, and Jesus' Response
- They have also just completed a very long (30-mile) walk to Caesarea Philippi
- Matthew 16:16 NIV:  
Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."
- Matthew 16:18 NIV:  
"On this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."
- He is INAUGURATING THE mission to reclaim what rightfully belongs to God.

#### 2. The Transfiguration: A (very well-timed) Foretaste of Glory:

- Matthew 17:1-9
- Revelation 1:12-16
- A FORETASTE OF JESUS' RESURRECTED GLORY

#### 3. What's up with Moses and Elijah?

### Application: So what do WE do with this encounter?

1. *What IS **your** life all about?*
2. *What is **our** life as a community all about?*
  - Go where he goes.
  - Know what he knows.
  - Care about what he cares about.
  - Do what he does.
  - Carlo Acutis: "I am happy to die because I lived my life without wasting even a minute of it on anything unpleasing to God."
3. *Listen to Jesus.*

## Possible Action Steps:

This week, I will:

- 1) Pray for a first or fresh encounter with Jesus.
- 2) Think of one good way I can participate in reclaiming the world alongside God.
- 3) Start or restart a Bible reading plan to listen to Jesus.

## Digging Deeper: The Significance of Caesarea Philippi

### Background and Historical Context

- **Caesarea Philippi:** Known for its grim idol worship and acts of sexual depravity, this site was historically associated with pagan rituals.
- **Tribe of Dan:**
  - \* **Origin:** The tribe of Dan was descended from Jacob and Bilhah, Rachel's maidservant.
  - \* **Identity:** From the beginning, the tribe had a cloud of controversy and a self-identity of being "less than."
  - \* **Land Allotment:** They were the last tribe to receive their land, which was also the smallest portion.
  - \* **Initial Location:** Positioned between the Philistines and the powerful tribes of Judah and Benjamin.
  - \* **Failure:** The Danites failed to occupy the land given to them by God, which Joshua had secured.
- **Migration to Caesarea Philippi:**
  - \* The Danites decided to move from Be'er Sheva to Caesarea Philippi.
  - \* The land appeared green, lush, and promising, with abundant water resources, but this decision led them into sinful situations.
  - \* Their method of taking the land was ruthless (see Judges 18:11-26), contributing to their negative reputation.
- **Jeroboam's Worship Sites:**
  - \* King Jeroboam established two worship sites in the Kingdom of Israel to prevent people from traveling to the Temple in Jerusalem, blurring the Word of God with different priesthoods, holidays, and altars with golden calves.
  - \* This represents counterfeit worship, which can be subtle and hard to recognize — a mere 5-degree deviation from true worship.
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### Jesus at Caesarea Philippi

- **Why Did Jesus Bring His Disciples Here?**
  - \* **The Setting:** 30 miles from Capernaum, Caesarea Philippi was a long journey to a very unholy place with unholy people.
  - \* **Declaration of the Messiah:** In this context, Jesus declares Himself the Messiah, demonstrating that His message is for all people, including those in unexpected and challenging places.
  - \* **Building the Church:** Jesus showed His disciples that He would plant and build His church through them, even in places like Caesarea Philippi.