

# Transfigured

Read Matthew 17:1-13

We're looking at times when Jesus, the unlikely-looking King, was recognized for who He truly was. We've talked about His triumphal entry and how He carefully presented Himself as both Suffering Servant and Messiah King. Now that we've introduced that idea, let's back up and talk about one earlier incident where Jesus was presented in His true kingly glory.

As we've mentioned, in Matthew 16, once the disciples confessed that Jesus was "*the Christ [Messiah], the Son of the living God*" (v.16, NASB), Jesus immediately told them what His Messiahship would mean: He would suffer, die, and be raised again on the third day (v.21). He then went further, telling His disciples that if they were going to stay with Him, they would have to deny themselves, take up their own crosses, and follow Him (v.24).

It was in that context that Jesus promised them,

*"There are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."* (v.28, NASB)

In Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus' promise is followed immediately by a statement that in only a few days, the transfiguration occurred. It's obvious that all three of these gospel writers believed that Jesus' promise was fulfilled in the transfiguration. But notice what a magnificent promise it is! Matthew says that in the transfiguration, the disciples would see Jesus "*coming in His kingdom*" (16:28, NASB). Luke calls it seeing "*the kingdom of God*" (9:27, NASB), and Mark, "*the kingdom of God after it has come with power*" (9:1, NASB).

Those seem lofty descriptions of something witnessed for only fleeting moments by only three of Jesus' disciples. What made the transfiguration worthy of being called the powerful coming of the Kingdom of God? Just this: Peter, James, and John saw this poor, unassuming, soon-to-be-crucified Messiah in the heavenly glory that was naturally His from all eternity. *His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light* (Matthew 17:2, NASB). The law and the prophets, represented by Moses and Elijah, visually witnessed to who He was.

This Glorious One voluntarily bows to death for us. He is the One who calls us to take up our cross and follow Him. He is the divine King who brings in the Kingdom of God. All God's magnificent promises are coming to us in Him.

Listen & Sing: [Transfiguration Hymn](#) (from [LNWhymns.com](#))