

JESUS ONLY

"And when they had lifted up their eyes they saw no man save Jesus only." Matthew 17:8.

Most unusual were the privileges enjoyed by Peter, James and John, the inner circle of the twelve, closest to the heart of Jesus. Their relationship to Him led them into the very holy of holies in the life of Jesus. They were with Him when He went into the home of Jairus and raised his daughter from the dead. They were with Him as the shadows fell about Him in the Garden of Gethsemane. Then they were permitted to be with Him in the midst of His life, on the Mount of Transfiguration, as He faced the crisis hour of His experience.

Certainly this was an unusual experience for these men. Mortal eyes had not seen such a sight as this in all the generations of man's experience. They saw Him in the glory which was His from the beginning. Luke tells us that Jesus took these friends and went into the mountain to pray, and that as He prayed, He was transfigured before them. While He prayed He was joined by Moses and Elijah, representatives from the realm of glory, who came to talk with Him. As these three communed, the disciples saw the face of Jesus aglow with the radiance of Heaven, and His body was white like the light. They saw Him as others had not seen Him during the years of His sojourn among men.

It is interesting to consider the group involved in this marvelous event. Here was Moses, the chosen of God, who delivered his people from Egyptian bondage; the Law-giver, the mightiest man before Jesus. Here was Elijah, the fiery prophet of God, who had mightily wrought for God in his day. Here was Jesus, the epitome of all humanity, and Son of God, the Redeemer of mankind. Law, Prophecy and Grace met on this occasion. And Jesus stood there as the fulfilment of the Law and Prophecy, and as the founder of the kingdom of Grace. The Gospel offers Christ to us; Christ linked with and fulfilling the law; Christ revealed in and testified to by the prophets; but Christ standing alone in the matter of salvation to every one of us. The entire Bible is a revelation of the preeminence of Jesus; Christ in the law, Christ in the prophets, Christ in the gospels, Christ in the epistles -- enough for sin, enough for salvation, enough for life, enough for time, enough for death, and enough for eternity.

Jesus only! That is the cry of eternity, the hope of the ages, the theme of the Bible, the bridge over hell, and the gate into heaven. Jesus only is God's way, God's will, God's work for a lost world. The world has tried everything else. It has tried education, legislation, and reformation. Would to God it would try Jesus! He is all the ground of confidence which we have for ourselves, and the only hope we have to set before others.

I. Jesus is Our Only Saviour.

Jesus only is the revealer of human sins, the regenerator of human souls, and the ideal of human service. Jesus only is our message, our hope, our plea, our anchor. There is no salvation outside the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are without Christ you do not have salvation. He is the Saviour of our souls. It is not Christ and the church, Christ and baptism, Christ and good works, Christ and prayer, Christ and Bible study, Christ and living right, Christ and giving of means, Christ and abstaining from sin, Christ and sacrificial efforts, but JESUS ONLY is our Saviour. He does not need help from anything or anybody. By trusting Him our sins are forgiven. We become children of God. Our names are written in the Book of Life.

You need this salvation. Without the Saviour all else is vain. With Him all things are a part of a pattern of life that makes living worth-while, the past bearable, the present joyous, the future bright. What have you without Christ?

What earthly possessions can compensate for the loss of eternal life? What mundane acquisitions can satisfy for the loss of the heavenly crown? What temporary advantages can pay for eternal banishment from the presence of God? What fleeting pleasures in this life can assuage the endless torments of a soul in hell?

Jesus only is your eternal possession. Jesus only can give you immortality. Jesus only can forgive your sins. Jesus only can admit you into the bliss of divine fellowship. Jesus only can make you a child of the King. Jesus only can write your name in the Book of Life. Jesus only can cement your family circle with glory, salvation, safety. Jesus only can guarantee the reunion of friends in that bright home to come. Jesus only is the Saviour of your soul. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

II. Jesus Only is Our Stabilizer.

What hopes, what fears, what doubts, what questionings, what uncertainties possess us! In Christ we have a steadying influence. We have a rock under our feet. We have an assurance, a confidence, a guarantee of everything that we need. We have the guidance, the comfort and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit. We have the promises of the Word. Oh, the confidence, the assurance, the stabilization of soul and self there is to those of us who have anchored our souls in the haven of rest! We know that His will is best for us. In the doing of it we find peace, rest, and joy. We can come to His feet with our burdens and He will understand. Our prayers will find a ready response from His tender heart. Out of the disturbances, the doubts, the disappointments, and the discouragements that beset us on every hand, Jesus rises like the Rock of Gibraltar, the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is the same in tenderness, in understanding, in sympathy, in loving, healing, life-giving, life-sustaining grace and power. Anchor your souls in the haven of rest. When you build your life on the Rock of Ages and center your activities in the will, the way, the work, and the Word of Christ Jesus, fears will vanish, doubts disappear, discouragements evaporate, disappointments become His appointments, and life will take on new meaning. We know from whence we have come, whither we are going, and what we shall find when we get there. Even the needs of the way are amply supplied. He is adequate for every emergency. He is sufficient for success or failure, for joy or sorrow, for life or death, for time or eternity, and for all that is involved in living in two worlds. Nothing satisfied but Jesus.

III. Jesus Only Is Our Surety.

He is the Surety behind the promises of God. He is the surety for all of the abundance of God's grace, in the supply of all the needs that we may have here or hereafter. He is the channel through which flow the abundant blessings and bounties of God. He is the rich store of all the manifold benedictions which God has for those who come to Him through Christ.

1. He is the surety for our Pardon.

"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him all that believe are justified by the law of Moses."

2. He is the surety for our Peace.

"Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." The peace of God that passeth all understanding is yours when you are right with God. At the feet of Jesus we are greeted with the sunshine of His smile, the sweetness of His words, and the safeness of His prevailing presence and unfailing tenderness.

3. He is the surety for our Provisions.

He is the surety for our food, for our clothes, for our education, for our health, for everything else that we may need. "He that spared not His own son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things."

4. He is the surety for our Power.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me." All things -- whatsoever is for His glory and for our good -- He will enable you to do them.

5. He is the surety for our Promotion.

Jesus only is the password to the mansions of glory, the title deed to the home in the skies. He said, "In my father's house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

For nineteen centuries this Gospel of Jesus Only has been preached to the children of men of all climes, continents, conditions, and circumstances. Multiplied multitudes have found in Jesus only the Saviour of their souls, the Stabilizer of their lives, and the Surety of their supplies. God offers Him to you now. Will you have Him? The decision is yours. Your past, your present, your future, your body, your mind, your soul, your spirit, your life, your death, your eternity depend on what you do with this Jesus Only. He offers you the blood of cleansing, the water of salvation, and the bread of life. With outstretched hands and pleading voice Jesus invites and urges you to come to Him now. Jesus only stands ready, willing, eager, anxious, yearning, gracious, abundantly able to save you, to cleanse you, to free you, to use you, to take you to Himself forever in glory when He has accomplished His purpose in you here upon earth. Come to Jesus. Come to Jesus now. Enthroned Him Lord of your life. You will find Him now and forever the Saviour of your soul, the stabilizer of yourself, and the surety for all of your supplies.