

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 Christ. Their relationship to Him led them into the very holy of holies in the life of the Saviour. 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. 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. Jesus took them "into a high mountain apart" to pray, and as He prayed He was transfigured before them. As they looked at Christ the disciples saw that His face was aglow with the radiance of heaven and His body was white like the light.

While Christ prayed He was joined by Moses and Elijah, representatives from the realm of glory who came to talk with Him. The disciples noticed the two whom they had not seen before, and recognized them as Moses and Elijah. Moses, the Law-giver, had delivered his people from Egyptian bondage, and was the mightiest man before Christ. Fourteen centuries had passed since God took him to Pisgah's lofty heights, and permitted him to behold the Promised Land. While that vision was fresh in his mind he died.

"For the angels of God upturned the sod,
And laid the dead man there."

Elijah, the fiery prophet of God, had wrought mightily for God in his day. When God was through with him here, He sent a chariot from heaven and picked up the lonely servant of God from some dusty road in Israel and carried him home to be with Him. Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Redeemer of mankind, was there. This was an immortal group which met there. Law, Prophecy, and Grace met on that occasion. Christ Jesus stood there as the fulfillment of the Law and Prophecy, and as the founder of the kingdom of Grace.

After Moses and Elijah had finished talking with Christ, Peter suggested that it would be a good thing if the Lord would permit him and his fellow disciples to erect three tabernacles, one for Christ and the others for the heavenly visitors. As Peter was occupied with this meager scheme of his, a brilliant cloud suddenly descended upon them, out of which was heard a voice bearing witness to the Sonship of Christ and calling upon them to hear Him. It was the voice of God declaring His pleasure in His Son. As God interrupted Peter's babbling, the disciples fell on their faces and were afraid. With tenderness Christ touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." In response to this the disciples lifted up their eyes and they saw no man save Jesus only.

Peter, James and John needed such a vision as this. For three years they had been with Christ, but they had been so slow to learn the things that were in His heart.

Did you ever wonder what might have happened to the three disciples after the Transfiguration? They might have found all gone except themselves.

They might have seen Moses only. That would have been a very sad exchange for what they did see because Moses, a man of God, cannot be compared with Christ Jesus, the Son of God. They might have seen Elijah only. They might have seen Moses and Elijah with Jesus, even as in the Transfiguration, but what really happened is "they saw no man save Jesus only." He was all they wanted to see for their comfort. All the comfort that any troubled heart needs can be found in Christ.

On the Mount of Transfiguration, it was Jesus only between the choicest of saints. On Calvary's cross it was Jesus only between the coarsest of sinners. As we lift our eyes heavenward today, it is to see Jesus only between God and man. He is the one supreme Mediator. He alone makes life worth living.

Jesus only is the theme of the Bible and hope of the ages. Jesus only is God's way, God's will and God's work for a lost world. The world has tried almost everything else. It has tried education, legislation and reformation. Would to God it would try Jesus! He is the only ground of comfort which we have for ourselves, and the only hope that we have to set before others.

I. Jesus Only Is Our Saviour.

Christ Jesus came to deal with the sin of the world and to bear it away. Jesus only is the revealer of human sins, the regenerator of human souls, and the ideal of human service. Jesus only is our anchor, our message, our plea and our hope. There is no salvation outside of 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 the giving of our means, Christ and abstaining from sin or Christ and sacrificial efforts, but Jesus only is our Saviour. He does not need help from anything or anybody to save us. Through trusting Him our sins are forgiven, we become the children of God, and our names are written in the Book of Life.

You need this Saviour. Without Him all else is vain. With Him all things are a part of a pattern of life that makes living worthwhile, the past bearable, the present joyous and 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 can forgive your sins and save your soul. Jesus only can make you a child of the King. Jesus only can write your name in the Book of Life. Jesus only can admit you into the bliss of divine fellowship. Jesus only can cement your family circle with salvation and 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" (Acts 4:12).

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 a confidence, an assurance and 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, understanding, sympathy, 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 a 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 satisfies 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 from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses" (Acts 13:38-39).

2. He is the surety for our peace.

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). 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 blessedness of His prevailing presence and unflinching tenderness.

3. He is the surety for our provisions.

He is the surety for our food, our clothes, our education, our health and 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?" (Romans 8:32).

4. He is the surety for our power.

Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). He will enable us to do those things which are for His glory and the good of others. Just as the magnet lifts the metal from the earth, so Jesus Christ is the magnet that lifts Christians from the depths of defeat to the glorious heights of victory. The real secret of daily victory for the Christian is Jesus only.

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. "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" (John 14:2-3).

When Alexander the Great visited Diogenes the Cynic, he found him sitting in his tub. He asked if he could do anything for him. Diogenes replied that there was just one thing that he could do for him -- he could abstain from standing between him and the sun. The greatest thing that we can do for ourselves and others is to see to it that nothing comes between us and Jesus, and that we shall "See no man save Jesus only." Never allow anybody to whittle down the size of God. Through the years I have had to whittle down my estimate of some people, but I have never had to whittle down my estimate of Christ. My estimate of Him has grown with the passing of time.

"Sweeter as the years go by,
Sweeter as the years go by;
Richer, fuller, deeper,
Jesus' love is sweeter,
Sweeter as the years go by."

Through these nineteen centuries, millions have found Jesus only to be the Saviour of their souls, the Stabilizer of their lives, and the Surety of their supplies. Will you take Him as your Saviour now? Your past, your present, your future and your eternity depend on what you do with Jesus only. He offers you the blood of cleansing, the water of salvation and the bread of life. With outstretched hands and pleading voice Christ invites and urges you to come to Him now. Jesus only stands ready, willing, eager, anxious, yearning, and abundantly able to save you, to cleanse you, to use you, and then to take you to Himself forever in glory when He has accomplished His purpose in and through you here upon earth. Receive Him now as the Saviour of your soul, the Stabilizer of your life, and the Surety for all of your supplies.