### Matthew

## Chapter 17

1Well, it was just six days later that Jesus took Peter, James, and John (the brother of James) to a private spot on a high mountain, 2where he changed form in front of them! His face became as bright as the sun, and his clothes became as white as light! 3And {Look!} they saw Moses and EliJah speaking to [Jesus]!  
  
4So Peter said to Jesus:  
  
 ‘Lord, it’s good for us to be here… And if you want, I’ll put up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for EliJah.’  
  
5But just as he said this, {Look!} a bright cloud covered them and {Look!} a voice came out of the cloud that said:  
  
 ‘This is my beloved Son whom I have approved… Listen to him!’  
  
6Well when they heard that, the disciples were frightened and they fell to their faces. 7But Jesus went over to them and touched them, and said:  
  
 ‘Get up; don’t be afraid.’  
  
8Then when they looked up, they saw just Jesus all by himself.  
  
9Well, as they were walking down the mountain, Jesus gave them this warning, he said:  
  
 ‘Don’t tell anyone what you saw here until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.’  
  
10Then sometime later, the disciples asked him:  
  
 ‘Why do the Scribes say that EliJah must come first?’  
  
11And Jesus told them:  
  
 ‘EliJah does indeed come and he restores everything. 12However, I tell you that EliJah has already come and they didn’t recognize him. So they did whatever they wanted to him… And this is the same way that the Son of Man is about to suffer at their hands!’  
  
13Well, it was then that the disciples finally realized that he was talking to them about John the Immerser.  
  
14And as they were approaching a crowd, a man came up to Jesus, then he kneeled down, and said:  
  
 15‘Lord, please show mercy on my son! He gets loony and he often falls into the fire or into the water. 16Even though I brought him to your disciples, they haven’t been able to cure him!’  
  
17It was then that Jesus said:  
  
 ‘O [what a] faithless and twisted people! How much longer must I be with you? How much longer will I have to put up with you?  
  
 ‘Bring him here to me!’  
  
18So Jesus thereafter scolded the demon and it came out, and the boy was cured from that moment on.  
  
19Then the disciples came to Jesus while he was alone and asked:  
  
 ‘Why couldn’t we cast it out?’  
  
20And he replied:  
  
 ‘Because of your lack of faith!  
  
 ‘I tell you the truth: If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it would go… Nothing would be impossible for you!’  
  
 21‘However, this kind won’t go out except by prayer and fasting.’ [spurious words]  
  
22Then, while they were all gathered in Galilee, Jesus said to them:  
  
 ‘The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men 23who will kill him… But he will be raised on the 3rd day.’  
  
And this made them all very sad.  
  
  
  
24Well, after they arrived in CapharNaum, the men who collected the double-silver [tax] came up to Peter and asked:  
  
 ‘Doesn’t your teacher pay the double-silver [tax]?’  
  
25And he replied:  
  
 ‘Yes he does.’  
  
Then, after he went back into the house, Jesus was already ahead of him and he asked [Peter]:  
  
 ‘What do you think, Simon; from whom do the kings of the earth get their duties and head taxes… From their sons, or from strangers?’  
  
26And [Peter] answered:  
  
 ‘From strangers.’  
  
Then Jesus said:  
  
 ‘So, the sons are really tax-free, aren’t they?  
  
 27‘But because we don’t want to stumble them, go over to the sea and cast out a hook, then take the first fish that you catch. And when you open its mouth, you’ll find a coin.  
  
 ‘Take [the coin] and give it to them for both you and me.’