The Law and The Prophets – Matthew 17:1-13

The Israelites before and during the exodus were a nomadic people. They did not have a homeland as of yet and were on the move. Although they were promised a land flowing with milk and honey, through their own disobedience they were yet to reach it. Moses was the leader of this band of nomads and before long it was apparent they needed rules to live by.

Moses went up on Mount Sinai and God gave him the 10 commandments. Not only did Moses receive the 10 commandments he received all of the laws and bylaws that Israel would live by to be a separate people. These laws may seem weird to us today, they may even seem down right unpleasant, but they were given for the specific purpose of making a people separate from the world around them. Sound familiar?

Elijah, who’s name means “The LORD is my God”, was a prophet to the Isaelites. He was well-known in his time and after he was taking up to heaven. When we hear of Elijah in the church today we associate it with two possible three things. First he never died, second he were there at the transfiguration, and third is he is possibly one of the two witnesses in Revelation.

Elijah was a representative of God to the Israelites. He prophesied, he told Israel of their sin, he even performed miracles. Elijah was what a prophet was synonymous with in the Old and New Testaments. He was a mouthpiece of God for judgments and blessings. That is why Israel revered him so.

Moses and Elijah were not the only people of note in what we call the Old Testament, but they were central figures to Israel and Israel knew what each of them stood for. Moses the Law and Elijah the prophets. Both of these men were a precursor to the Law and Prophets that is Jesus.

There was a reason both of these men were at the transfiguration. They collectively represented the man who was there with them. Jesus Christ was both the law and the prophets. He was the fulfillment of of scripture and was the promised Messiah. Moses helped shepherd Israel from Egypt and Jesus would shepherd the world into heaven.

God himself is the only person who can represent the law and the prophets that is why He had to step down from His throne in heaven and become the God-man for us. It is hard enough to become the prophets or the become the fulfillment of the prophets, it is another to become the law and suffer the wrath of God the Father because of the law. It took God himself to be that for us.

Jesus said in Matthew 12:41-42 (read). Jesus was greater than Moses, He was greater than Elijah, both of which were put on pedestals among the Isralietes. The revered these men to the point of idol worship after their death. They forgot it was God all along who was in control no those men. On the mount of Transfiguration, Jesus, showed who their allegiance should be given to.

How does this apply in our lives today? How can we living in the year 2020 use the story of the transfiguration of Christ. What can we learn from it?

First this story is central to Christianity. Without the transfiguration there would have not been a glimpse of Christ in His true form, and the disciples would not have suffered as they did if this was not revealed.

Second This shows us that even veiled in human form, Christ, was still God. He was fully God and fully human. He is worthy of our praise. Yes even two thousand years later He is forever worthy of our praise.

We as gentiles never grew up with our without the law. The only thing we know is that the law was written on our hearts before we were born. We as Christians know that Christ saved us before we were in our mothers womb, and called us for a specific purpose.

Elijah and Moses both had their purposes while on this side of glory. We too have a purpose. We are to be like those two men while we are here. They were continually seeking God’s guidance in all things, even the mundane. They knew their life was worth nothing without the Power of God.

In closing, We have a duty as Christians, that duty is clear, it is obedience to Christ. He commanded us to preach and teach His word to all. He did not say we can use excuses. He was clear in his commandments to us. Amen