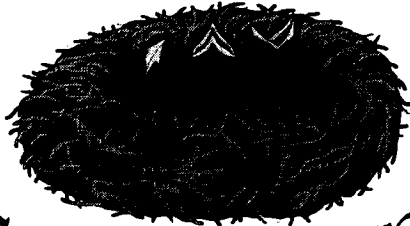


*"They shall  
mount up...*

# ON EAGLES' WINGS

*... with wings  
as eagles."  
Isaiah 40:31*



## AERY NUGGETS

### Transfiguration Matthew 17:1-8

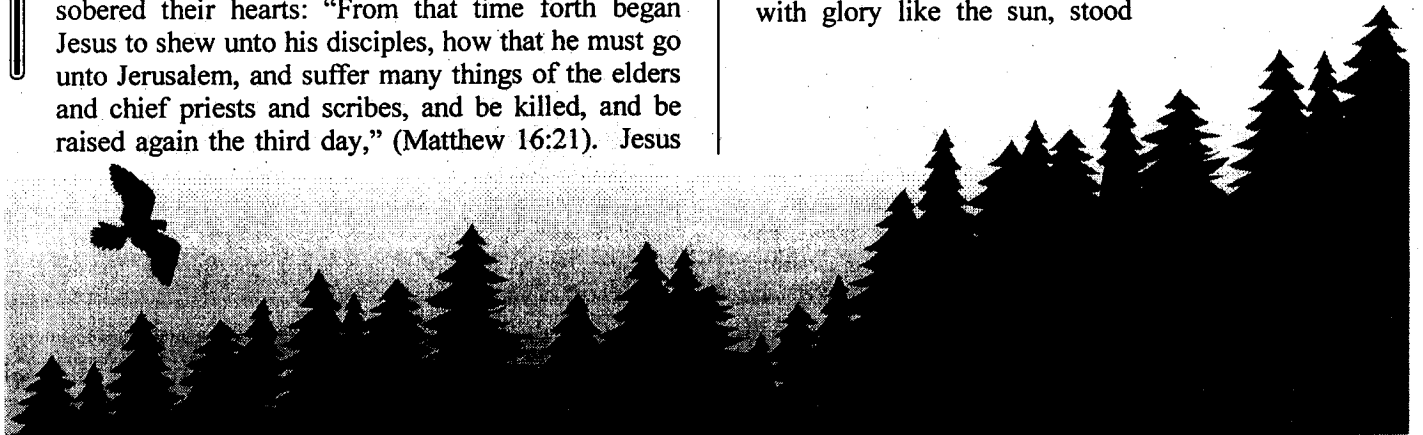
In this beautiful portion, we find the Lord Jesus leading three of His disciples up a high mountain, somewhere in Galilee. Just a few days before this, He had been walking with His disciples in Caesarea Philippi, and you might think the disciples would have no concerns at all—after all, they were walking with Jesus! The disciples were able to talk with Jesus on a daily basis and share with Him their problems, and He cared for them very personally and tenderly. They were privileged to hear His wonderful words daily and to see often His marvelous works. Peter believed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God.

But, the world of these disciples was filled with difficulties and cares—sickness and poverty were all around, and the merciless rule of godless men dominated their country. The world showed then, as it does to an even greater extent now, the misery brought on by sin. In addition to this, the Lord Jesus had just been telling them things that further sobered their hearts: "From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day," (Matthew 16:21). Jesus

also had told them another thing, and though they didn't yet understand it, this would be a thing that would bless them and lift their hearts way above the dismal scene of this earth: "Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom," (Matthew 16:28). The Lord Jesus was about to share with them something that no one else on earth had ever seen, nor would see until He returns in glory—these three disciples who walked closely with the Lord were about to be lifted up above the weary, troubled experience of this world and get a glimpse of glory that would fill their souls!

In Matthew 17:1 and 2 we read, "And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light." Just think of it! The disciples had walked with the Lord Jesus on a daily basis, and they knew

Him as Lord, but they had never yet seen His face shine like the sun nor His raiment be as white as light. Moreover, we read in verse 3, "And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him." There before them, beaming with glory like the sun, stood



the Lord Jesus, and with Him, two old testament saints, Moses and Elijah. These last had been gone from the earth for hundreds of years, yet there they stood, alive and easily recognized in the light of His glory, and talking with Him. My dear Christian friend, doesn't it thrill your heart to read these words? Regardless of your present circumstances, if you have trusted in the Lord Jesus as your Savior, then this glorious scene is not just for Peter, James, and John, but for you too. Can you see the glory? You someday will when Christ returns. This will be true whether you have died as Moses did, or whether you are still alive as Elijah was when taken up, you will be caught up to be with the Lord—ever to be in His presence! In 1 Thessalonians 4: 16,17 we read, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

The certainty of being with the Lord should lift believers up even in the weariest of times, and this glory should drive away even the darkest of moods. If you are a Christian, then this is for you! One day, you too will see His glory, and what's more, like Moses and Elijah of old, you will be with Him, shining like the sun—you will be with Him!

Peter was deeply moved by the scene at the top of the mount, but I think his eyes were distracted by Moses and Elijah who were there with Jesus in the glory. Peter's eyes should have been focused on the Lord Jesus, not on those who will be there with Him. The same is true for you and me—even in this present scene with all its cares and distractions, our eyes should be focused on Him who is our Lord. In heaven, though surrounded by glory on every side, our eyes will be focused on the One who loved us and gave Himself for us. Moses and Elijah, though they appeared with Jesus, were not to be seen as being equal with the Lord. So, it was at this point that God the Father intervened, speaking out of the glorious cloud (verse 5), "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." Peter and all the rest were terrified when they heard the voice of God, but the message is as clear to us today as to the disciples there at the top of the mountain that day: this Jesus is not just a man, like Moses or Elijah; He is the very Son of God, and we are to hear Him. This is the very One who says to us in John 5:24, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

Have you heard the voice of the Son of God, and have you believed His words? If you have not yet believed, I pray that today as you read these words, you will believe and be saved. If you have already believed on Christ Jesus as your Savior, there need be no fear for you in this life, nor after this life. In verse 6 we read that the disciples were sore afraid and fell to their faces, but the Lord Jesus came to take away their fear, "And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only," (Matthew 17:7,8). That's how it

should be for us too. When we look up, we too should see Jesus only. If this is true for us, then Jesus is there to take away our fear, regardless of our current circumstances, however desperate they may seem to be. Have we experienced grave illness or disability, advanced age with its infirmities and insecurities, business reverses, or the rejection of those we care about? The hand of Jesus is reaching to us at this very hour saying, "arise, and be not afraid." When you lift up your eyes, I pray you see no man save Jesus only. Perhaps you are experiencing success and good health in this world—you should see Jesus only. When we are in heaven, and we are in His presence with glory surrounding us and beauty and peace on every side, we will all be looking on Jesus, seeing Him only, and praising Him for His marvelous grace.

But, my dear Christian friend, we do not have to wait till we get to heaven to see glory—we have glory now. We belong to Jesus, and we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. We have glory before us, and that is for sure. That glory, certain as it is, should fill our souls as we walk this wilderness path, hand in hand with our Lord Jesus. Each time we gather with the saints, with Christ in our midst, enjoying the fellowship we share in the Lord, is this not a foretaste of glory? The disciples were getting a glimpse of the glory that the Lord Jesus will have when He returns in power and majesty, and I expect it was a sight that never left them. Nor should the glory that fills our souls ever leave us if we keep our eyes focused on the Lord Jesus.

"Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount," (II Peter 1:15-18).

*"When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun;  
We've no less days to sing God's praise,  
Than when we first begun."*

Much love through Christ,

*Stephen F Faulkner*

For address correction or free new name addition,  
write to:  
Leslie L. Winters or Christine Albury