Message Date: October 8, 2023

Message Text: Matthew 17

Preacher: Steve Sonderman

Questions:

1. In Matthew 16:21-17:6, the disciples are having trouble differentiating between earthly and heavenly things. Have you ever struggled with this? Why is it difficult to focus on heavenly things?

2. How was it evident that Jesus ended up changing how the disciples thought? How has your thinking and way of life changed since knowing Jesus?

3. Read Matthew 16:23-27. Peter was refusing to let Jesus die. How does Jesus challenge him and the disciples with how to live their lives?

4. When have you struggled to give Jesus all of your life, not just part of it? What does it look like for Jesus to be your all in all?

5. Read 1 Peter 2:4-9. What does Peter say the purpose is for us to be built into a spiritual house? Why is this empowering and affirming to us as we declare God's praises?

6. Peter went from recognizing Jesus as the Messiah to not fully understanding Him to denying Him to proclaiming Christ until he was killed for doing so. What would your life look like if you let Christ influence your life the same way Peter's was?

7. What encouragement does Christ provide to live in that way? How can we encourage each other to live as God's special possession, made to declare His praises?