

PETER #5 Jesus is God's Son—'Listen to Him'

Matt. 17:1-8; Luke 9:28-36; 2 Pet. 1:16-18; John 1:14

I. Jesus' Transfiguration

A. Peter suggested: "I'll make 3 tents-- for you, Moses, Elijah." (Mt. 17:4)

1. Peter impressed by Israel's 'celebrities'—Moses & Elijah
2. Peter declared Jesus is "the Son of the living God." (Mt. 16:16) How does he compare to Moses & Elijah?
3. Moses represents the Law, Elijah the prophets; together they represent the OT (Matt. 5:17)
4. Peter put Moses & Elijah on par with Jesus. What are you putting on par with Jesus?
5. Peter's mistake provoked God's interruption—"while Peter was still speaking..." (Matt. 17:5) [Note: Peter was interrupted by God the Father, God the Son (Mt. 17:24-27) & God the Spirit (Acts 11:15)]

B. God the Father declared: "This is My beloved Son...listen to Him." (Matt. 17:5)

1. Peter declared "You're the Son of the living God;" Now God the Father declared it. Jesus is unique, surpassing the prophets (e.g., Moses, Elijah); He is God's Son (Heb. 1:1-2a)
2. The prophets pointed forward to Christ (Deut. 18:15; Luke 24:44). Now He's come.
3. Moses & Elijah were imperfect; they made mistakes & misrepresented God (Num. 20:10-11; 1 Kings 19:10, 14, 18). Only Jesus is perfect & perfectly represents God

C. God commands "listen to Him; hear Him."

1. This applies to Moses, Elijah, plus other 'prophets' & religions (Jn. 14:6)
2. God removed Moses & Elijah, leaving "Jesus only" (Mt. 17:8)
3. Do our life-choices result from listening to Him? Or from North American values?
4. Peter thought Jesus deserved a better position—"The Christ should get a kingdom, power, plus we're on your team (what do we get? Mt. 19:27)" Jesus: "I'm going to the cross to die..." (Mt. 16:21)
5. Jesus said "deny yourself, take up your cross & follow Me." (Mt. 16:24-25) ~"The way to win is to lose; the way up is down; the way to the crown is the cross."
6. In the OT God spoke thro' Moses (Law, rules & regulations) plus the prophets (specific situations).
7. Today Jesus speaks *directly* to every believer, thro' the Bible & the Spirit (1 Jn. 2:27)

D. Preview of the coming kingdom (Mt. 16:28). We'll face the Lord Jesus (as king). Will He say, 'I never told you to do that?' (Mt. 7:23), "I told you; why didn't you do it?" or "well done, good & faithful servant"?

PETER #5 Jesus is God's Son—'Listen to Him' [Supp. Material]

Matt. 17:1-8; Luke 9:28-36; 2 Pet. 1:16-18; John 1:14

"After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "**This is my beloved Son**, with whom I am well pleased; **listen to him**." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only." (Matthew 17:1-8)

"Now about 8 days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter, John & James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, & his clothing became dazzling white. Behold, 2 men were talking with him, Moses & Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of Jesus' departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter & those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory & the 2 men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make 3 tents, one for you, one for Moses & one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. As Peter was saying these things, a cloud came & overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone" (Luke 9:28-36)

"We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power & coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor & glory from God the Father, & the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,' we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain." (2 Pet. 1:16-18)

"The Word became flesh and dwelt [*tabernacled*] among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) **Note:** *Dwelt among us* means more literally "pitched his tent" (Gk. *skēnoō*), an allusion to God's dwelling among the Israelites in the tabernacle (Exo. 25:8-9; 33:7).

II. **Jesus' Transfiguration** (Matt. 17:1-8; Luke 9:28-36)

E. **Peter suggested:** "...I'll make 3 tents-- for you, Moses, Elijah." (Mt. 17:4)

1. Peter impressed by the presence of 2 of Israel's 'celebrities'—Moses & Elijah
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3. Moses represents the Law, Elijah the prophets; together they represent the OT (Matt. 5:17)
4. Peter's proposal puts Moses & Elijah on par with Jesus. What are you putting on par with Jesus?
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F. **God the Father declared:** 'This is My beloved Son...listen to Him.' (Matt. 17:5)

1. First Peter declared "You're the Son of the living God;" Now God the Father declared it. Jesus Christ is unique. Surpassing the prophets (e.g., Moses, Elijah); He is God's the Son (Heb. 1:1-2a)
2. The prophets pointed forward to Christ (their writings testify to Him. Luke 24:44) Now He's come.
 - "Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up...a prophet like me...Listen to him'" (Acts 3:22; Deut. 18:15)
3. Moses & Elijah were imperfect; they made mistakes & misrepresented God (Moses too legal, Num. 20:10-11; Elijah too exclusive. 1 Kgs. 19:10, 14, 18). Only Jesus is perfect & perfectly represents God

G. **God commands** "listen to Him; hear Him." This applies to other 'prophets' & religions (Jn. 14:6)

1. God removed Moses & Elijah, leaving "Jesus only" (Mt. 17:8)
2. Do our life-choices result from listening to Him? Or from North American values, the "American Dream"? What are you seeking? Pay, power, pleasure, popularity, position, prestige, property, portfolio, pension? Who told you that? Did Jesus tell you?

3. Peter thought Jesus deserved a better position—"You're the Christ, you should get a kingdom, power, plus we're on your team (what do we get? Mt. 19:27)" Jesus: "I'm going to the cross to die..." (Mt. 16:21)
 4. Jesus said "deny yourself, take up your cross & follow Me." (Mt. 16:24-25) ~"The way to win is to lose; the way up is down; the way to the crown is the cross." Are you losing the "P's"? Pay, power, position, prestige, property, portfolio, pension? What about other "P's"—poverty, pain? Others grasp for higher positions, do you? (Jesus lowered Himself) Others up-size their property, do you? We shouldn't have the same values as others. If you're a businessman, be a **Christian** businessman. If you're a teacher, be a **Christian** teacher. If you're a student, be a **Christian** student, etc
 5. In the OT God spoke thro' Moses (Law, rules & regulations) plus the prophet (specific situations). To know God's will check with the Law or (failing that) the prophet (e.g. Saul's lost donkeys 1 Sam. 9:5-6).
 6. Today Jesus speaks *directly* to every believer, thro' the Bible & the Spirit (in their heart, 1 Jn. 2:27) Jesus speaks directly to you; don't be led by others or do things just because others feel you should; No you "listen to Him; get directions from Him." Don't even 'follow the church,' hear Him!
- H. **Preview of the coming kingdom.** We'll face the Lord Jesus (as king). Will He say, 'I never told you to do that?' (Mt. 7:23) Or "I told you; why didn't you do it?" or "well done, good & faithful servant"?

QUOTES:

"The highly specific mention of the interval of days ["6 days" (Mt. 17:1), "8 days" (Lk. 9:28)] is very unusual in the body of the Gospels and appears designed to alert the reader to some connection between the trans-figuration and what has gone before. Certainly Luke makes it very clear that there is a connection. His repeated use of 'glory' with reference to Son, Father and angels, is picked up in the repeated use in the transfiguration account. The transfiguration is a sign, anticipation, instalment or foretaste of the glorious manifestation of the Son." [Stephen Williams, *Transfiguration of Jesus Christ (Part 1)*, *Themelios*, 28.1 (Autumn 2002) pp. 22-23]

"Amongst the parallels between the [Exodus] account [of Moses at Sinai] and that of the transfiguration are the fact that names of 3 of Moses' companions are specified upon their ascent and the cloud covers the mountain for 6 days (Ex. 24:1, 9, 16). More striking still is the record of Moses' shining face: when he came down from Sinai, his face was radiant; whenever he entered the presence of the Lord, his face shone (Ex. 34:29-35). More or less the final word in the Pentateuch on Moses is that he was an incomparable prophet 'whom the Lord knew face to face' (Deut. 34:10). This prophetic stature or role is brought to mind by the voice that spoke at the mount of transfiguration, for the injunction to 'listen to' Jesus apparently echoes Moses' parting announcement that 'the Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him' (Deut. 18:15). These connections are not flights of fancy. To the contrary, what often takes us time to dig up would have jumped to the minds of those steeped in the OT. There is much more OT background to and in connection with the accounts in the New than we readily perceive. Luke's account points these up: 'Moses and Elijah spoke about his departure', the word for 'departure' being 'exodus'. 'Glory' and 'exodus' thus emerge as key themes in the interpretation of the transfiguration." [Stephen Williams, *Transfiguration... (Part 1)*, *Themelios*, 28.1 (Autumn 2002) pp. 23-24]

"The vocabulary of Luke 9:51 ["as the days were fulfilled for him (Jesus) to be taken up" (recorded shortly after the transfiguration—(Luke 9:27-36)] which speaks of Christ's departure echoes that of 2 Kings 1-11, where it describes Elijah's departure... No one can be sure why Peter suggested that 3 shelters or booths should be built for Jesus, Moses and Elijah but given the transfigured appearance, it would not be surprising if Peter thought that Jesus was about to be assumed into heaven in the company of Elijah and that he was trying to detain the heavenly company for a little longer. As it was, Jesus would die, unlike Elijah, and die in agony, unlike Moses." [Stephen Williams, *Transfiguration... (Part 2)*, *Themelios*, 28.2 (Spring 2003) p. 24]

"The transfiguration is at least this: the sign... [of] the new dispensation of grace under the messianic lordship of Jesus Christ. It inaugurates a crucial phase within the story of divine action, as the disciples are instructed about a path from suffering to glory, through cross to ascension. In the context of the NT, it constitutes the fullest revelation, under earthly conditions, of the glory ...of the person of the Son of God. It is pregnant with apocalyptic future. At the mount of transfiguration, we are at the heart of the gospel. Michael Ramsey concluded that the transfiguration '... stands as a gateway to the saving events of the gospel, and is a mirror in which the Christian mystery is seen in its unity. Here we perceive that the living and the dead are one in Christ, that the old covenant and the new are inseparable, that the Cross

and the glory are of one, that the age to come is already here, that our human nature has a destiny of glory, that in Christ the final word is uttered and in him alone the Father is well pleased. Here the diverse elements in the theology of the New Testament meet.’ [Michael Ramsey, *The Glory of God and the Transfiguration of Christ* p. 144] quoted by Stephen Williams, *Transfiguration... (Part 2), Themelios*, 28.2 (Spring 2003) p. 28]

“Suppose that... the ancient Jewish story of a God making the world, calling a people, meeting with them on a mountain – suppose this story were true. And suppose this God had a purpose for his world and his people that had now reached the moment of fulfillment. Suppose, moreover, that this purpose had taken human form [in Jesus] and that the person concerned was going about doing the things that spoke of God’s kingdom coming on earth as in heaven, of God’s space and human space coming together at last, of God’s time and human time meeting and merging for a short, intense period, and of God’s new creation and the present creation somehow knocking unexpected sparks off one another. The earth shall be filled, said the prophet, with the knowledge of the glory of [the LORD] YHWH as the waters cover the sea. [Then] ...we might make sense of the strangest moment of all, at the heart of the narrative, when the glory of God comes down not to the Temple in Jerusalem, not to the top of Mount Sinai, but onto and into Jesus himself, shining in splendor, talking with Moses and Elijah, drawing the Law and the Prophets together into the time of fulfillment. The transfiguration, as we call it, is the central moment. This is when what happens to space in the Temple and to time on the Sabbath happens, within the life of Jesus, to the material world itself or rather, more specifically, to Jesus’ physical body itself.” [N T Wright, *Simply Jesus*, pp. 142-143]

“[T]he Transfiguration of Jesus is not, as it stands, a ‘proof’ of his ‘divinity.’ Moses and Elijah were ‘transfigured’ too... What the story of Jesus on the mountain demonstrates...is that, just as Jesus seems to be the place where God’s world and ours meet, where God’s time and ours meet, so he is also the place where, so to speak, God’s matter – God’s new creation – intersects with ours. ...The moment is extraordinary, but soon over. [Yet] it forms part of a new set of signposts, Jesus-shaped signposts, indicating what is to come: a whole new creation, starting with Jesus himself as the seed that is sown in the earth and then rises to become the beginning of that new world.” [N T Wright, *Simply Jesus*, p. 144]

“Peter thought Moses & Elijah could stand in the same position as the Lord. In the world, the Lord ...emptied Himself & had made Himself of no reputation. But in the kingdom of the heavens, the Lord is the highest One. Moses & Elijah were men among men & were respected by all. But they could not be ranked in the same position with the Lord, for the Father loves only the Son, & every knee shall bow unto the Lord (Isa. 45:23; Rom. 14:11). Moses resurrected from the dead, & Elijah was ...raptured; yet they could not be ranked together with the Lord... [The heavenly voice] elevated the Lord to a position above Moses & Elijah, signifying that grace far exceeds the law & the prophecies. ...The incident here indicates the Lord’s determination to be crucified (by refusing Peter’s intervention). Today God also delights in the obedient ones who bear the cross. God delights in the suffering ones who receive the kingdom. “Hear Him!” Do not speak rashly, but hear Him. (Many people can only talk but cannot hear.) What should they hear? They should hear all the words that the Lord speaks, especially those concerning self-denial & the bearing of the cross (Matt. 16:24-27). “Hear Him!” Now there is only He; there is no more Moses and Elijah.” [W. Nee, *Collected Works*, Vol. 15, *Matthew*, Chap. 18, Sect. 1]

“The NT requires a daily knowing & a moment by moment knowing. In the NT Moses can’t exist; the law can’t exist. True knowledge...comes from the Lord who is living and speaking in us; it is always in the present tense. What do the prophets represent? The prophets supplemented what’s lacking in the law. They...inquired of God on behalf of men. A prophet...sought God’s will on behalf of others. For e.g., you might be sick ...You could send for a prophet to inquire of God to see whether or not you’d become well...You could ask someone to inquire of God’s will for you. This was the work of a prophet. The law enabled you to know right & wrong according to dead regulations, while a prophet told you what was right & wrong in place of you knowing it yourself. God said we shouldn’t listen to Moses or Elijah. However, there are many “Elijahs” today. Suppose we have a very spiritual brother or sister among us. If you have a problem, it’s easy to ask him/her to inquire of God for you. If you’re not clear about God’s will, it’s easy to charge him/her to inquire about God’s will for you. This is the principle of a prophet. That’s what Elijah did. The law takes away man’s direct communication with God, & the prophet also takes away man’s direct fellowship with God. Both the law & the prophets stand between man and God & separate man from God.” [W. Nee, *Collected Works*, Vol. 43: Chap. 2, Sect. 3]

“Being a Christian [means] knowing Christ in an inward way; it has nothing to do with the outward law & prophets. The law is the outward ordinances....it tells us what is and is not correct in an outward sense. Many people do not know the inward leading of the Spirit, & they’ve never learned to obey the leading of the Spirit. They say what others say & deny what others deny. When the Bible says that such & such is right, they repeat it. But they have no inward revelation & have never learned to obey the leading of the Spirit.” [W. Nee, *Collected Works*, Vol. 43: Chapter 13, Section 3]

PETER #5 Jesus is God's Son—'Listen to Him' [Script]

Introduction:

- The Bible describes some supernatural events, miracles
- There are realities in this universe which can't be reduced to mere material things [materialism] or things that can be analysed by science [scientism]
- Materialism—"seeing is believing." "If God sits in that chair, I'll believe he exists"
- Scientism—"I only believe in things that can be explained by scientific laws"
- Counter-example human love—love & marriage

PIX: Gary S Becker Beach Wedding Couple

PIX: Gary S Becker

PIX: Gary S Becker Chalk Board

PIX: Gary S Becker Treatise on Family

PIX: Gary S Becker Couple in Park

PIX: Gary S Becker old married couple

- Gary S. Becker's economic theory of marriage & divorce
- There are emotional, psychological things (**e.g. LOVE**—is it chemical, electrical? Where's it located?) which are "real," they affect our actions, behavior, the course of our lives, the course of history, yet aren't predictable by scientific laws.
- There are realities in the spiritual realm which can't be described by scientific or social scientific laws which affect the course of our life & the course of history-- including God, Jesus Christ & Christianity
- Why did Jesus Christ—an itinerant Jewish preacher who wandered Israel & met an untimely early death 2,000 years ago have such a great influence on history?
- Why did the "religion" Jesus started—"Christianity"--survive & prosper, despite intense opposition & persecution? Today one-third of world pop. "Christian"
- These are historical & social phenomenon which need explaining

Matt. 17:1-8; Luke 9:28-36; 2 Pet. 1:16-18; John 1:14

"After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with

whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” When they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.” (Matt. 17:1-8)

Peter’s own report ~35 years later: “We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power & coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor & glory from God the Father, & the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I’m well pleased,’ we ourselves heard this very voice from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.” (2 Pet. 1:16-18)

John’s report ~60+ years later: “The Word became flesh and dwelt [*tabernacled*] among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

PIX: Matthew 17 Transfiguration of Jesus title

PIX: Matthew 17 Map Mount Hermon Israel

PIX: Matthew 17 Jesus Transfiguration

PIX: Matthew 17 Jesus Transfiguration 1

PIX: Matthew 17 Jesus Transfiguration Raphael

Jesus’ Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-8; Luke 9:28-36)

PIX: Matthew 17 Learn from Others’ mistakes.

We learn from Peter’s mistake—Thank you, Peter

- I. **Peter suggested:** “...I’ll make 3 tents-- for you, Moses, Elijah.’ (Mt. 17:4)
 1. Peter impressed by the presence of 2 of Israel’s ‘celebrities’—Moses & Elijah
 2. Peter declared Jesus is “the Son of the living God.” (Mt. 16:16) How does he compare to Moses, Elijah?

PIX: Moses title

PIX: Elijah title 1

3. Moses represents the Law, Elijah the prophets; together they represent the OT (Matt. 5:17)
4. Peter’s proposal puts Moses & Elijah on par with Jesus. Peter wanted to have “3 tabernacles, 3 tents, 3 memorials...”
5. Moses & Prophets important factors in Peter’s life (Moses: how to live, what’s right/wrong, what’s socially acceptable Moses & Elijah—Peter’s heroes

- What are your “3 tabernacles”
- What are the guideposts, the reference points, determining factors from which you determine the course of your life?
- What are you putting on par with Jesus? Pay, prosperity, power, pleasure, popularity, position?
- Comfort, convenience, culture (the values you’ve inherited from your family, country (of origin, or adoption)
- Boxes!!

PIX: Money, Power, Pleasure

6. Peter’s mistake provoked God’s interruption—“while Peter was still speaking...” (Matt. 17:5) [Note: Peter was interrupted by God the Father, by God the Son (Mt. 17:24-27) & God the Spirit (Acts 11:15)]

J. **God the Father declared:** ‘This is My beloved Son...**listen to Him.**’ (Mt. 17:5)

PIX: Listen to God

PIX: Listen to the Voice of God

PIX: Listen when God speaks Listen

1. First Peter declared “You’re the Son of the living God;” Now God the Father declared it. Jesus is unique. Surpassing the prophets (e.g., Moses, Elijah); He is God’s Son (Heb. 1:1-2a)
2. The prophets pointed forward to Christ (their writings testify to Him. Luke 24:44) Now He’s come.
- “Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up...a prophet like me...**Listen to him**’” (Acts 3:22; Deut. 18:15)

PIX: Moses strikes Rock

PIX: Elijah Cave

3. Moses & Elijah were imperfect; they made mistakes & misrepresented God (Moses too legal, Num. 20:10-11; Elijah too exclusive. 1 Kgs. 19:10, 14, 18). Only Jesus is perfect & perfectly represents God

PIX: Matthew 17 My Son Listen to Him

PIX: Matthew 17 Voice My Son Listen to Him

K. **God commands** “listen to Him; hear Him.” This applies to other ‘prophets’ & religions (Jn. 14:6)

1. God removed Moses & Elijah, leaving “Jesus only” (Mt. 17:8) **SONG: “Jesus only; Jesus ever; Jesus all in all we sing. Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer..”**

2. **Do our life-choices result from listening to Him? Or from North American values**, the “American Dream”? What are you seeking? Pay, power, pleasure, popularity, position, prestige, property, portfolio, pension?
3. **You consider buying a new car, seeking a bigger house, a comfortable retirement--Who told you to do that? Did Jesus tell you? “Hear Him”**
4. Peter thought Jesus deserved a better position—“You’re the Christ, you should get a kingdom, power, plus we’re on your team (what do we get? Mt. 19:27)” Jesus: “I’m going to the cross to die...” (Mt. 16:21) **The way to crown is cross**
5. Jesus said “deny yourself, take up your cross & follow Me.” (Mt. 16:24-25) ~“The way to win is to lose; the way up is down; the way to the crown is the cross.” Are you losing the “P’s”? Pay, power, position, prestige, property, portfolio, pension? What about other “P’s”—poverty, pain? Others grasp for higher positions, do you? (Jesus lowered Himself) Others up-size their property, do you? We shouldn’t have the same values as others. If you’re a businessman, be a **Christian** businessman. If you’re a teacher, be a **Christian** teacher. If you’re a student, be a **Christian** student, **Christian** engineer, colleague, neighbor, etc
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7. **Today Jesus speaks directly to every believer**, thro’ the Bible & the Spirit (in their heart, 1 Jn. 2:27) Jesus speaks directly to you; don’t be led by others or do things just because others feel you should; No “listen to Him; get directions from Him.”

##Brother told me to preach the gospel on the subway

8. God the Father didn’t say “Listen to the Church (church leaders, etc)” Later Saint Augustine said, **“Listen your bishop now forewarns you; I admonish you; I tell you in public; I now threaten you. May you hearken to your bishop when he gives you a command...”** [Saint Augustine “*Sermons...* (*The Fathers of the Church*, vol. 38), p. 47]. Don’t even ‘follow the church,’ hear Him! **Some church/Christian leaders like to control, direct people; they’re inserting themselves between the Lord & His people; they’re telling people to hear them. But God said “Hear Him (Jesus)!” Who should you listen to? Leaders: let God’s people listen to Him**
- L. **Preview of the coming kingdom.** We’ll face the Lord Jesus (as king). Will He say, ‘I never told you to do that?’ (Mt. 7:23) Or “I told you; why didn’t you do it?” or “well done, good & faithful servant”?

