



From the Mountains to the Valleys

By Shannon Ford on December 16, 2021

READING: Matthew 17

All of us love the mountain tops of life. We enjoy being in the presence of the Lord and the sense that everything is going our way. We like it when we have that special sense of God's presence. In fact, most of us would love to live simple lives without much in the way of challenges. But life is not like that. For those of us who know the Lord, it is important for us to come off the mountain and enter the valley of brokenness where so many people live. That is the nature of the story in Matthew 17:1-9.

What a wonderful experience the disciples had seeing the transfiguration of Jesus, along with seeing Moses and Elijah, and hearing the voice of God. They had what we would call a mountaintop experience with Jesus. But just when they started to enjoy the glory of it all, just when they had entertained the idea of staying right there in that heavenly environment, Jesus said it was time to move out. They left the mountaintop for the valley. Now, this is the very thing I want you to see. Without the mountaintop, we are not fit for service in the valley.

In the valley, there are multitudes of people looking for answers to life's troubles and heartaches. They turn from one place to another for an answer but come away empty and discouraged. The answer to many people's problems is to bring the mountain down to the valley by prayer. We must lift people in prayer to the God of the mountain and the valley.

Do you need God's mountaintop joy and power moved into your valley? Do you know someone who needs this? Now is the time to turn to Him in faith and recognize that God, and God alone, can meet the tremendous needs we have in this world today. Yes, enjoy the mountaintop! But don't forget the importance of serving and praying in the valley.

PRAYER: Lord, help us be committed to pray faithfully for those who are struggling with heartaches and pains in the valley. Show us how we can love and serve them passionately.

TOMORROW'S READING: Matthew 18

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