

/We will now begin the thirteenth lecture on the gospel of Matthew. /The text is Matthew chapter 17. /The theme of this chapter is “Change.”

/First, Jesus’ transfiguration. /Verses 1-8. /Second, questions and clarifications regarding Elijah. /Verses 9-13. Third, teachings of sending out demons. /Verses 14-23. /Fourth, Jesus pays temple taxes. /Verses 24-27.

/Read 17:1. /After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

/Here it says “after six days.” /This is six days after Peter confessed his faith. / Luke 9:28 says, /“About eight days after”. /Here in Matthew it says “after six days”, and in Luke it says “eight days after.”

/Eight days after includes the day of Peter’s confession and the day including the change in him. /The day of Peter’s confession and the day of his change are altogether eight days. /Jesus’ disciples Peter, James, and John were with Him.

/Jesus specially trained these three disciples out of His twelve disciples. /He took the three men and went up to a high mountain. /Here the high mountain is Mount Hermon in the northern region of Israel.

/Mount Hermon is about 2,700 meters in elevation. /2,700 meters. /This is approximately twice the height of Baekdu Mountain in Korea. /Jesus went up this high mountain. /He went up the mountain to pray.

/Jesus went up to the mountain and prayed. /Luke 22:39-40. /The Lord wanted to put some distance between Him and the world, and go to a more spiritual location. /He went up with the heart of reverence for God.

/Verse 2. /There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

/Jesus changed as he prayed. /His clothes became as white as light. /Jesus was transfigured and His clothes became white like the light. /Jesus always lived in God’s glory.

/Here Jesus specially showed His transfiguration to His disciples. /Jesus is always in God’s glory.

/Jesus was transfigured and He wanted to show His disciples the transfigured world. /The deacon Stephen’s face was white as an angel when he was stoned to death.

/Verse 3. /Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

/Jesus was talking with Moses and Elijah. /They were talking about Jesus’ departure,

“which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.” /Luke 9:31. /Elijah also did not die but ascended to heaven. /2 Kings 2:11.

/Moses and Elijah and Jesus spoke and conversed. /Moses is the representative of the Law. /Moses recorded the Pentateuch. /Elijah is the representative of prophets. /Therefore, Moses and Elijah represent the entire Old Testament Bible.

/The two men signify the entire Old Testament Bible. /They prophesied that Jesus would come to this world as is written in the Bible, and that He would fulfill the redemption of the cross. /Thus, Jesus was teaching about His death on the cross and His resurrection. /Luke 9:31.

/Verse 4. /Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters-- one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

/Peter said that he would put up three shelters for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. /Luke 9:32-33. /Peter was about to fall asleep when he suddenly opened his eyes and said this. /Peter said he would put up three shelters for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah.

/A shelter is like a tent or curtains. /Shelters were built with branches of olive trees or willow trees. /Peter made a mistake in saying this. /What was Peter's mistake?

/First, Jesus is not One to be confined to a shelter. /It was Peter's mistake in wanting to invite Jesus into a juvenile shelter. /Jesus is the Son of God. /Jesus' divinity alone can fill the entire universe.

/Therefore, it was wrong to bring Jesus into a humanly and institutional world. /We must serve Jesus in spirit and in truth. /Second, it was wrong to treat Jesus and Moses and Elijah equally.

/Moses and Elijah are servants of God. /Jesus is the Son of God. /Third, it was wrong to want to eternally hold on to the changed world that Jesus temporarily showed them. /There is an eternal world in the future. /We must keep our eyes on it and move forward.

/Fourth, the disciples lost focus of their mission. /There were many people living in sin at the bottom of the mountain. /The disciples' mission was to go to these people and preach the gospel of redemption of Jesus.

/Verse 5. /While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

/Here there is a “bright cloud.” /This is a cloud of glory, and symbolizes God's presence. /God said that Jesus was God's Son, whom he loves. /Jesus was One sent by God.

/Also, Jesus was One whom God was pleased with. /Jesus is One who fulfilled the will of God. /Jesus alone completely fulfills the will of God.

/God said to "Listen to him!" /We must listen to the teachings of Jesus. /Jesus is full of God's glory. /This is the glory of the only begotten Son of God. /He is full of grace and truth.

/Verses 6-7. /When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid."

/God's majesty appeared. /The disciples were afraid. /Jesus comforted the disciples.

/Verse 8. /When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

/There was only Jesus left. /The things of the world had gone away. /Our Jesus alone is true. /We must wait on Jesus alone who is true.

/Verse 9. /As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

/Jesus told His disciples not to tell anyone what they saw on the mountain. /The reason was that Jesus wanted to teach people after He had completed His redemption. /He wanted His disciples to publicly testify after He had completed His redemption.

/Verse 10. /The disciples asked him, "Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"

/The disciples asked about Elijah. /Jesus said that Elijah had already come. /Here Elijah refers to John the Baptist. /The teachers of the law believed that Elijah, who had ascended to heaven in the Old Testament, would return.

/The Elijah who ascended into heaven was not coming again. /John came to complete the works of Elijah. /John the Baptist came to do the works that Elijah did not complete. /What were the works?

/What was it that Elijah did? /It was the turning the hearts of fathers to their children. /It was the turning of hearts of children to their fathers. /Malachi 4:5-6. /This is repentance.

/Elijah brought the Israelites before God and led them to repentance. /Likewise, John the Baptist brought people to repentance before Jesus came. /Jesus said that He would now receive the same sufferings that John the Baptist received.

/Verse 14. /When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him.

/When they returned from the mountain, many sick people came to them. /The nine disciples were at the foot of the mountain. /There was a boy suffering greatly from

epilepsy. /However, the disciples were unable to heal the boy of epilepsy.

/Verse 17. /"O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me."

/Jesus called His disciples an "unbelieving and perverse generation." /This means that the disciples were unable to heal the boy with epilepsy because they did not have faith. /The disciples were unable to chase out the demon.

/Therefore, Jesus chased out the demon. /Then the sick boy was healed. /The demon surrendered to Jesus' command. /The demon was chased out.

/Verse 19. /Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

/The disciples asked Jesus. /Why couldn't we drive out the demon?

/Verse 20. /He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

/Jesus answered them. /He said that it was because of their small faith. /Mark 9:29. /Jesus said that demons must be chased out with prayer. /The disciples did not pray and were small in faith, which is the reason why they were unable to chase out the demon.

/Jesus said that faith even as small as a mustard seed was enough. /Then when a mountain is told to move, it would move. /Even if one has faith as small as a mustard seed, that faith still has life.

/A mustard seed is one of the smallest types of plant seeds. /Still, when it is planted, it can grow taller than a human being. /Why is this so? /Even though it is small externally, there is an element of life in it. /God does not look at the outer appearance. /He looks at the heart.

/True faith means that there is faith of life on the inside. /It also refers to faith that works. /True faith is to obey the Word of God. /Faith is to believe with the heart and obey with the body. /James 2:22.

/To merely believe without the Word of God is wrong. /To believe without Scripture is to be superstitious and have blind faith. /True faith is to believe in the Word of God and obey.

/Verse 22. /When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men.

/Jesus said that He would die on the cross and come back to life in three days. /Jesus also

said this in 16:21. /This was Jesus' second time saying this. /Jesus repeatedly said this because the sufferings of the cross and redemption were important. /He was preparing the disciples.

/Verse 24. /After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?"

/There was a two-drachma tax on each person over the age of twenty. /Exodus 30:14-15. /Hence, the tax collectors came to Peter and complained, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?"

/Then Peter said that Jesus did pay and returned to Jesus. /Jesus asked Peter. /"From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes — /from their own sons or from others"? /Peter answered that kings collect from others.

/Jesus replied, "Then the sons are exempt." /Still, Jesus said that in order for there to be no offense to the tax collectors, he would pay. /Here the "taxes" referred to local taxes and commodity taxes. /The domestic taxes were national taxes.

/Verse 27. /"But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

/Jesus did not have to pay taxes. /Yet, in order for there to be no offense to the people, He said that He would pay the temple tax. /Jesus told Peter to go to the lake and fish, and to open the mouth of the first fish he catches.

/Peter opened the mouth of the fish and found a four-drachma coin. /Jesus told Peter to take it and pay it as temple tax for Jesus. /How was there a four-drachma coin in the mouth of the fish?

/It seems someone dropped it into the ocean. /The fish thought it was food and ate it. /Jesus knew that the fish had swallowed the coin. /Jesus is the Son of God. /He is the Almighty God.

/We will continue with the lecture on Matthew chapter 18. /The theme of the chapter is "Children."

/First, whoever is like a child will be the greatest in heaven. /Verses 1-4. /Second, God treasures the little children. /Verses 5-14.

/Third, govern over criminals in the church. /Verses 15-20. /Fourth, forgive a brother's sins. /Fourth, forgive a brother's sins. /Verses 21-35.

/Read verse 1. /At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

/The disciples argued over who was the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. /At that moment, Jesus called a little child over to Him. /Then He taught His disciples about the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

/He said that no one would enter the kingdom of heaven if they couldn't be like the little children. /Matthew 11:25. /God shows the gospel to those who are like little children. /What are the characteristics of children?

/First, humility of oneself. /One must be humble. /God gives the kingdom of heaven to those who are humble. /Second, dependence on one's parents. /Little children cannot live on their own. /Thus, they depend on their parents. /We believers must also always depend on the Lord.

/Third, little children crave milk. /1 Peter 2:2. /Psalm 119:131. /We must always long for God's Word. /Fourth, little children strive to learn. /They take after others. /They imitate others. /They copy others.

/We must become like Jesus. /We must strive to always learn about the Bible. /Fifth, little children make efforts to obey. /They listen to adults. /We must become like little children.

/When we become like little children, we will know the will of God. /We will have the kingdom of heaven. /We will become like the Lord in His form. /Our spirits will grow.

/Verse 5. /"And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.

/Jesus said that whoever welcomes a little child will be welcoming Jesus as well. /When we welcome a little child who believes in Jesus, we will be welcoming Jesus as well.

/This is because the Holy Spirit lives in little children. /The Holy Spirit is in the little children who believe in Jesus.

/Verse 6. /But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

/It is a great sin to cause a little child who believes in Jesus to sin. /To make a child sin means to tempt him or her or to put them to the test. /This is to make a child fall in his or her walk of faith. /This is also to persecute a child.

/Jesus said that such people are better off drowned in the depths of the sea with a large millstone hung around their necks. /This is a merciless death penalty. /A death penalty. /In this way, it is suitable for one to be punished if they bring damage to the little children who believe in Jesus.

/We can see how much Jesus loved each believer. /Each believer is Jesus' life.

/Verse 7. /"Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!

/There are many things in this world that cause people to sin. /There are many people who interfere with works of salvation. /Yet, Jesus said that there would be woe to such people. /Also, there would be woe on those who cause people to sin, /and woe to those who fall to sin.

/We must not bring harm to anyone else's faith. /Also, we must not bring damage to our own faith. /We must not be tempted. /We must not bring damage to our own faith. /We must not lose our own faith.

/Verse 8. /If your hand or your foot causes you to sin cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire.

/Jesus said to cut off our hands or feet if it causes us to sin. /This does not mean that we should literally cut off our hands or feet. /This means that when something as valuable as our hands or feet bring damage to our faith, then we must get rid of whatever that may be.

/Even if materials or businesses or careers are valuable, /and even if our friends are as valuable to us as our hands and feet, /if any of it causes us to sin, then we must cut it out of our lives.

/Jesus said to gouge out our eyes if it causes us to sin. /This does not mean that we should literally gouge out our eyes. /Even if something as valuable to us as our eyes causes us to sin, then we should cut it out of our lives.

/Verse 10. /"See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

/God sends his angels to look after the little ones. /Angels are messengers. /Angels immediately obey when God tells them to do something. /They help us in our faith. /When we are in the midst of troubles, God sends his angels to protect us.

/Verse 12. /"What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?

/There were one hundred sheep. /One sheep got lost. /The man left the other ninety-nine sheep to go look for the one lost sheep. /Then when that one sheep is found, there would be great rejoicing.

/In the same way, God does not like losing one person. /We must also go and find lost

believers.

/We must go and look for those who have wandered from their faith. /We must go rescue them. /We must save them. /Then God will be pleased and we will be glad as well.

/Verse 15. /"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.

/How should we take care of matters regarding crime in the church? /Jesus said to govern over criminals in the church. /Jesus said to go to the person who committed the crime and quietly show him his faults.

/We must not expose him of his sins to everyone around us from the beginning. /We must go to the brother who sinned and speak with him quietly. /If he does not listen, then we must admonish him with two or three witnesses.

/We must attempt to cover up his sins as best as we can. /Of course we must discipline him of his sins and lead him to repentance. /However, if he refuses to listen even to the two or three witnesses, then we must publicly let his sins be known.

/The church must govern those who publicly do wrong. /Furthermore, if the person does not listen even when he is publicly governed by the church, we must treat him as a stranger. /We must not have anything to do with him as a stranger.

/Verse 18. /"I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

/We must discipline according to the Bible. /We must give punishments according to the Bible. /If we discipline according to the Bible, then God will also acknowledge that person as a sinner.

/On the other hand, let us say that a man repented. /Then the church must set him free of his punishments. /When the church sets him free of his punishments, then God will also set him free. /Matthew 16:19.

/Verse 19. /"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

/When two people pray together in agreement, God hears the prayers in heaven. /God will hear even when one person prays. /God hears even when we pray alone. /However, there are advantages when two people pray together.

/When we pray together in agreement, we pray with commonalities. /That is, we do not pray according to our greed. /There is grace in worshiping in a community. /Hebrews 10:25.



/Verse 21. /Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

/Peter came and asked Jesus a question. /He asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" /Then Jesus answered, "'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

/Then did Jesus mean that we should only forgive 490 times? /No. /Jesus meant that we should continuously forgive our brother when he sins against us. /We must continuously forgive our brother of his sins against us.

/Verses 23-25. /"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

/There was a king who had a servant. /The servant owed the king ten thousand talents. /Ten thousand talents is equivalent to ten thousand blocks of gold, each weighing 34 kilograms. /The servant had a debt of ten thousand blocks of gold that weighed 34 kilograms each.

/The price of gold nowadays is very high-priced. /The servant wouldn't have been able to pay back the debt even if he sold his wife and children and his own body. /Therefore, the king canceled the servant's debt. /The king canceled everyone's debts.

/How grateful of the king! /This means that our Jesus canceled all our sins. /We were supposed to go to hell as a result of our sins. /We were in debt to God.

/We were sinners who were to be judged before God and who were suitable for destruction. /Yet, Jesus took and carried our burdens and paid our debt for us. /The Lord canceled all our sins.

/Verse 28. /"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

/However, there was a fellow servant who owed the servant one hundred denarii. /The fellow servant was in debt of one hundred denarii. /This was wages for one hundred days of labor for a strong young man at the time. /One hundred denarii. /One hundred denarii is 1/600,000 of ten thousand talents. /1/600,000.

/However, the servant put his fellow servant in prison for owing him one hundred denarii. /Then the other servants went and told their master what had happened.

/Verse 32. /"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.

/The master called the servant a “wicked servant.” /Then the master put the servant who had his debt canceled into prison. /When our brother does wrong to us, we must forgive him.

/We must forgive our brother when he does wrong to us. /We are people who have received cancellation of debts of ten thousand talents from God. /We have been forgiven of all the sins that we were supposed to go to hell for.

/However, if we do not forgive our brother of the small wrongdoings he has done against us, then we cannot receive God’s mercy. /When we don’t forgive our brothers, then we ourselves will be imprisoned in darkness.

/There will be no freedom for our souls. /We will not receive God’s mercy. /James 2:13. /However, whoever does not show mercy will receive judgment without mercy.

/The Lord’s Prayer prays, “ Forgive us our debts, /as we also have forgiven our debtors.” /We must not seek revenge. /We must leave that to God.

/We must forgive everyone. /The deacon Stephen genuinely loved those who were stoning him to death. /He genuinely prayed that God would forgive those who were stoning him.

/We must always forgive others. /When we first forgive, then we will be the first to receive God’s grace. /We will find freedom in obeying the Word of God.

/There will be joy in us. /We have mercy and comfort from God. /Therefore, we must forgive our brothers of the sins they have committed against us.

/We will now conclude the thirteenth lecture on the gospel of Matthew. /Thank you.