

## February 23, 2020 – Matthew 17:1-9 Who Do You See The Most?

*“After six days Jesus took with Him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. 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. 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! 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. When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. 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.”*

As we look at this familiar text on the transfiguration of our Lord Jesus, we six individuals listed in this section of Scripture. All of them real human beings.

**Peter** who is often the spokesperson for the disciples, and who in a moment of haste and anxiety cut off the ear of Malchus in the Garden of Gethsemane. (Jn. 18:10)

**James** who was martyred with the sword by King Herod. (Acts 12:2)

**John the brother of James** who was the disciple whom Jesus loved, and was exiled on the island of Patmos because he was being punished for preaching the Word of God. (Jn. 20:2; Rev. 1:9)

**Moses** who was God’s tool to lead the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt to the promised land. (Exodus)

**Elijah** who proclaimed the Word of the Lord to the wicked King Ahab and his wife Jezebel and then was involved in the show down against the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel and was finally taken into heaven in a whirlwind as there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire. (I Kings 17:1 and following, II Kings 2:11)

All five of these individuals are there on the Mountain of Transfiguration with the Lord Jesus. As great and incredible as their stories of life are, none of them are able to save mankind from hell. None of them are able to make the payment for sin, none of them are able to defeat Satan and death.

It is only Jesus Who God the Father says: *This is My Son, Whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him!*