



# WHY JESUS?

Week Four

## BIG IDEA

The Transfiguration is such a remarkable story about when Jesus took three of his disciples, Peter, James and John and they got to see a “sneak peek” into the glorious resurrected Christ! They also saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. But suddenly, after Peter talks out of turn and puts his “foot in his mouth” again, a cloud overshadowed them and a voice from Papa said, “This is my dearly loved Son. Listen to Him.”

We need to understand that on that mountain, Moses represented the Law and Elijah represented the prophets. And now a new Day had dawned, the baton was being passed from the Law and the Prophets to the Son! Jesus is what the Law and Prophets were always trying to say but could never fully articulate. That new Day has dawned and we are to listen to Jesus! Jesus takes the Law and the Prophets to their designed purpose which is love for God and love for others, for love is the fulfillment of the Law and the prophets!

### ***Mark 9: 2-8 NLT***

<sup>2</sup>Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. As the men watched, Jesus’ appearance was transformed,<sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, far whiter than any earthly bleach could ever make them. <sup>4</sup>Then Elijah and Moses appeared and began talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Peter exclaimed, “Rabbi, it’s wonderful for us to be here! Let’s make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup>He said this because he didn’t really know what else to say, for they were all terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my dearly loved Son. Listen to him.” <sup>8</sup>Suddenly, when they looked around, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus with them.

### ***Hebrews 1: 1-2 NLT***

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets.

<sup>2</sup>And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son.

### ***2 Peter 1:19 NLT***

<sup>19</sup>Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts.

## **2 Corinthians 4:6 NLT**

<sup>6</sup>Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

## **Hebrews 3:3–6 NLT**

<sup>3</sup> But Jesus deserves far more glory than Moses, just as a person who builds a house deserves more praise than the house itself. <sup>4</sup> For every house has a builder, but the one who built everything is God. <sup>5</sup> Moses was certainly faithful in God’s house as a servant. His work was an illustration of the truths God would reveal later. <sup>6</sup> But Christ, as the Son, is in charge of God’s entire house. And we are God’s house, if we keep our courage and remain confident in our hope in Christ.

## **Matthew 5:17 NLT**

<sup>17</sup> “Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.

## **Matthew 5: 38-41, 43-45 NLT**

<sup>38</sup> “You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ <sup>39</sup> But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. <sup>40</sup> If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. <sup>41</sup> If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles. <sup>42</sup> Give to those who ask, and don’t turn away from those who want to borrow.....<sup>43</sup> “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup> But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! <sup>45</sup> In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.

## **Matthew 7:28–29 NLT**

<sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.

## **Matthew 22:34–40 NLT**

<sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. <sup>35</sup> One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied, “ ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

## **Romans 13:8–10 NLT**

<sup>8</sup> Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God’s law. <sup>9</sup> For the commandments say, “You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet.” These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God’s law.

## **1 John 4:7-8,19 NLT**

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>19</sup> We love each other because he loved us first.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one thing that spoke to you from this weekend's sermon?
2. Read Mark 9: 2-8 NLT. What is the significance of having Moses and Elijah appear in the transfiguration event in this passage and what is the significance of them disappearing as mentioned in verses 7-8?
3. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. Pastor Bernard used the illustration of a runner in a relay race passing on the baton to the runner in front of him. The baton has now been passed from Moses (the Law) and (Elijah) the Prophets to Jesus. What is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets?
4. Read Romans 13: 8-10 These verses clearly articulate the intended outcome of the Law and the teachings of Jesus which is Love for God and Love for others. Where does this kind of love come from and how can you stay grounded and centered in that kind of love?
5. Jesus was taking us in the direction of restorative justice which sees Sin more as a disease that needs to be healed rather than a crime to be punished. He was trying to break the endless cycle of violence, dominance, and control. How does Jesus' countercultural and counter-intuitive teachings in Matthew 5: 38-41, 43-45 reflect this? What could this look like in your life in practice?
6. Loving well is a true mark of a child of God according to 1 John 4:7-8,19 NLT. Do you think you love well? If not, can you share with your group why you find it hard to love others (or perhaps specific people in your life)? And what is the source of Love?

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**As you end your group discussion please pray this prayer together:**

**Papa, You are the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. We pray that from Your glorious, unlimited resources You will empower us with inner strength through Your Spirit so that Christ will make his home in our hearts as we trust in him. May our roots grow down into God's love and keep us strong. And may we have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep Your love is. May we experience the love of Christ and may we be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from You our Loving and gracious God. Eph 3:14-19.**