**March 11, 2018 “The Transfiguration” Matthew 16:27-17:9**

Yesterday, when Al and I spoke on the phone, he asked me what I was going to preach on today. I replied, “I really don’t know” which wasn’t entirely true and also wasn’t entirely false. The reason I said that to him and the reason I am telling you this, is because my mind has been focused on the upcoming celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Some refer to this event as Easter but I and many of those I know, correctly call it “Resurrection Sunday”.

I think many times we as Christians, put far too much emphasis on Christmas and not nearly enough on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Merchandizing gurus can attest to this as well. Far more money is spent on Christmas, Thanksgiving and unfortunately Halloween than is ever spent on celebrating “Resurrection Sunday”.

Perhaps this is because Christmas and Thanksgiving both appeal to our flesh. One because of all the things that we will receive and the other because of all the good things we will get to eat.

The Resurrection and especially the events leading to it, do not lend themselves to a feeling of euphoria but rather there is a sense of foreboding in those events. We see, abandonment by the disciples, betrayal with a kiss by one close to Him, denial by one who said he would never forsake Him, a mock trial of one who was innocent by those who were guilty of subterfuge and manipulation. We see scourging which by all accounts was one of the most vicious punishments ever inflicted on a human being. We see people who were eyewitness of miracles calling for His death and finally we see the crucifixion of the very Son of God.

So then why are we looking at Matthew 16:27 through 17:9? This passage is about the Transfiguration of Christ and has very little to do with His resurrection. I would submit to you that this is not the case at all, rather this passage is one of utmost importance to us as Christians because of the implications of the events the resurrection will trigger.

Matthew 16:27-17:9

1. Timeframe
   1. In only a few weeks or months the things Jesus is saying is going to take place
      1. Time of teaching
      2. Time of learning
         1. Matthew 16:16… “Thou art the Christ”
         2. Matthew 16:18… “I am going to build my Church”
            1. Nothing is going to stop it
            2. Even all the powers of Hell itself
         3. Matthew 16:21… I am going to suffer and die
         4. I am going to be raised up from the dead on the third day
         5. Matthew 16:27… “I am going to come again”
            1. I am coming in glory

Do you know why in cemeteries people are buried with the head to the west?

Ezekiel 43:1-4

* 1. This is not a new message
     1. Last section of Psalm 22
     2. Exodus 33:18-23
        1. Note
           1. Goodness
           2. Proclaim all that God is (name)
           3. Grace
           4. Judgment
           5. Cleft in the Rock
  2. Note the similarities
     1. Promise of His coming
        1. Revelation 22:20… even so come quickly
        2. Revelation 6:10… “How long O Lord?”
     2. Why do we need this promise?
        1. Matthew 16:24-26
           1. Perquisite of being His disciple

Deny Himself

Two things that will reveal to you your priorities

Appointment book

Check book

Take up His cross

Like I (Jesus) do with mine

Why do I (Jesus) do this?

Nevertheless… not My will but Thine be done

* + - 1. Why would any disciple of Christ do this?
         1. Romans 8:18… not worthy to be compared to the glory!!!!
         2. That puts things in the right perspective

Matthew 16:26

Values clarified

What matters most to us

Heaven or earth?

* + - 1. Why is it so important for us to know what the values of our life are?
         1. Matthew 16:27… “the Son of Man is going to come”

Daniel 7:9-10… books were opened

Matthew 16:27… repay every man according to his deeds

Daniel 7:11-12… defeat of the Anti-Christ

Daniel 7:13-14… like the Son of Man

“was coming”

The resurrection is a prelude to a “coming attraction”. He is coming back again!!!!