

MATTHEW 17

THE TRANSFIGURATION (17:1-13)

St. Gregory Palamas on the mercy shown to us through Christ's Transfiguration:

Through the fall our nature was stripped of divine illumination and resplendence. But the Logos of God had pity upon our disfigurement and in His compassion He took our nature upon Himself, and on Tabor He manifested it to His elect disciples clothed once again most brilliantly. He shows what we once were and what we shall become through Him in the age to come, if we choose to live our present life as far as possible in accordance with His ways.

St. John Chrysostom on the disciples being filled with awe:

Why then did they fall on their faces on the mountain? Because there was solitude, and the height of the mountain, and great quietness, and a transfiguration full of awe, and a pure light and a cloud stretched out; all of these threw them into great alarm. Amazement arose on every side, and they fell on their faces in both fear and adoration at the same time.

THE DISCIPLES' LACK OF FAITH (17:14-21)

Blessed Theophylact on why the disciples could not heal the boy:

The apostles were afraid that they had lost the grace against demons that had been given to them; this is why they asked Jesus in private and with great anxiety. But the Lord reproves them for being imperfect in faith, saying, 'Because of your unbelief.' For if you had fervent, ardent faith, you would accomplish great things even though they appeared to be small.

CHRIST PAYS THE TEMPLE TAX (17:22-27)

St. Cyril of Alexandria on taking a coin from a fish's mouth:

He was also able to take the coin out of the earth, but He did not do so. Instead, He made the miracle out of the sea, so that He might teach us the mystery rich in contemplation. For we are the fish snatched from the bitter disturbances of life. It is just as if we have been caught out of the sea on the apostles' hooks. In their mouths the fish have Christ the royal coin, which was rendered in payment of debt for two things, for our soul and for our body.

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Quote Sources: Manlio Simonetti, editor. *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Matthew 1a and 1b* (IVP)
Blessed Theophylact. *The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew* (Chrysostom Press)

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