

October 19 Answers

- 1) The transfiguration was significant for several reasons: (1) it was the **fulfillment** of Jesus' prophecy that "there are some standing here who will not taste **death** until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom" (Matt 16:28); (2) it was the only visible display of Jesus' **divinity** during his earthly ministry, and it was seen by **three** men who then testified as "**eyewitnesses** of his majesty" (2 Pet 1:16; Deut 17:6); (3) it showed Jesus' supremacy over **Moses** (the Law) and **Elijah** (the prophets); (4) it confirmed Jesus as God's final and superior **Spokesman** (Heb 1:1–2), for he was the culmination and fulfillment of everything that had come before (Matt 5:17). For all the grand theological and Christological motifs that are present in the transfiguration, there is also a strong emphasis on **discipleship**. God said to the three disciples, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; **listen** to him!" (Luke 9:35). The revelation of Jesus as God's Son means that we owe him our **attention**, our **allegiance** and our **obedience**. Those who have the privilege of hearing Jesus' message must **heed** his words! (Heb 2:2–3; 10:28–29). After Jesus exorcised the demon which the disciples could not cast out, they came to him **privately** and asked what they had done wrong, for they had cast out demons before (Mark 6:7, 13). Jesus said, "Because of your **little faith** (*oligopistos*). For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard **seed**, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you" (Matt 17:20). The disciples expected the demon to come out **immediately**, and when it **resisted** them, they gave up. Had they **persisted** in faith and called out to God in **prayer**, they would have prevailed (cf. Mark 9:29). Jesus' mention of a mustard seed was intended to teach them that it was not the quantity of their faith, but the **quality** of their faith that mattered. If they would persist in faith in spite of adversity, even speck-sized faith was enough to move mountains!