

SOME LESSONS FROM THE STORY OF THE TRANSFIGURATION.

(70)
by A. Alexander MacRae

Scripture -- Matt.17.1-23

We read for our scripture reading this morning the inspired account of one of the most remarkable events in the history of the world. It was shortly after the great confession of Peter at Caesarea Philippi. The disciples of Christ had begun to gain a new insight into spiritual things. Hitherto they may have thought of Christ principally as a great human teacher. But gradually there had dawned on them the realization that He had a relationship to the supernatural unseen world that transcended anything merely human. Jesus had brought this conception into concrete expression by his questions at Caesarea Philippi. Now He determined to give them a still more vivid apprehension of the reality of the spiritual universe.

At Caesarea Philippi the disciples were not far from Mount Hermon, the largest and highest of the mountains of Palestine. Its triple summit shone resplendently, as the sun's rays were reflected from its eternal snow-fields. It was a fit symbol of the transcendence of the spiritual over the material, of the eternal over the temporary. Thither He led the disciples. All but three were left near the foot of the mountain. The great revelation was reserved for those who had eyes to behold it. So James, Peter and John accompanied their Master up the steep slopes of the mountain. Up near the summit the great event occurred. I need not repeat again its details, for