

Fear of God Getting Out of My Box

- Jesus is much more than just a “great man of history.”
- We need to know the transfigured Christ.
- Fear of the Lord is recognition that we are not God.

Supporting Scripture

- “Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves.” (Matthew 17:1)
- “He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.” (Matthew 17:2)
- “[Jesus’] clothes shimmered, glistening white, whiter than any bleach could make them.” (Mark 9:3 msg)
- “God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all.” (1 John 1:5 ncv)
- “Who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners.” (Hebrews 7:26 niv)
- “They were speaking about his exodus from this world, which was about to be fulfilled in Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:31 nlt)
- “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” (Matthew 17:4)
- “While [Peter] was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!’” (Matthew 17:5)

How long has it been since a fresh understanding of Christ buckled your knees and emptied your lungs?

I. The Transfiguration

- A. Jesus wanted his followers to see where he got his fortitude.
- “He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.” (Matthew 17:2)
 -

B. Christ as his truest self.

- “God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all.” (1 John 1:5 ncv)
- “Who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners.” (Hebrews 7:26 niv)
- “They were speaking about his exodus from this world, which was about to be fulfilled in Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:31 nlt)

II. Jesus Is the “Beloved Son”

A. Getting Jesus out of the box of “great men of history.”

- “Jesus is not ‘a’ son or even ‘the best of all sons.’ He is the ‘beloved son.’ ‘Beloved’ means ‘priceless’ and ‘unique.’”
- “While [Peter] was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!’” (Matthew 17:5)

B. Seeing Christ in cosmic greatness.

- “They fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.” (Matthew 17:6)

III. A Holy, Healthy Fear

A. Most of our fears are poisonous, but this fear is different.

- “From a biblical perspective, there is nothing neurotic about fearing God. The neurotic thing is not to be afraid, or to be afraid of the wrong thing. That is why God chooses to be known to us, so that we may stop being afraid of the wrong thing. When God is fully revealed and we ‘get it’, then we experience the conversion of our fear. . . . ‘Fear of the Lord’ is the deeply sane recognition that we are not God.”

B. As awe of Jesus expands, fears of life diminish.

- “A big God translates into big courage.”

IV. We Need to Know the Transfigured Christ

A. Jesus blew the sides out of the disciples’ preconceptions; may he blow the sides out of yours too.

- “The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?” (Psalm 27:1)