

LISTEN TO HIM

Discussion & Reflection Guide

Matthew 17:1-9 | 2 Peter 1:16-21

1. Listening With Context

1. The sermon began by talking about how we can hear words without truly listening.
 - When have you realized you misunderstood someone because you ignored the context?
2. Why do you think God says “**Listen to him**” at this specific moment in Peter’s story?

2. Right Confession, Wrong Expectations

(Matthew 16:13-20)

3. Peter correctly identifies Jesus as Messiah, but misunderstands what that means.
 - What expectations about Jesus or faith might we carry that don’t actually come from Him?
4. In what ways can Christians today unintentionally redefine Jesus according to cultural ideas of success, power, or comfort?

3. The Shock of the Cross

(Matthew 16:21-28)

5. Peter rebukes Jesus when he hears about suffering. Why do you think the idea of a suffering Messiah was so difficult for him?
6. Jesus says disciples must deny themselves and take up their cross.
 - What emotions or resistance does that language stir in you?
7. What is the difference between self-denial as spiritual formation and unhealthy self-rejection?

4. The Transfiguration: Glory That Confirms the Cross

(Matthew 17:1-8)

8. Why do you think Peter wanted to stay on the mountain?
9. Where are we tempted to “build tents”, trying to freeze spiritual highs instead of following Jesus into everyday faithfulness?

10. What does it mean that God interrupts Peter before he finishes speaking?

5. “Listen to Him” = Cruciform Living

11. Billy emphasized that listening to Jesus means living a cross-shaped life.

- Which part of that idea challenged you most?

12. The world defines strength differently than Jesus does.

- How would you describe the difference between worldly strength and cruciform strength?

13. Which of these areas feels most real for you right now?

- forgiving instead of punishing
- serving instead of being noticed
- staying faithful instead of escaping
- speaking truth gently
- refusing to turn people into enemies

6. Coming Down the Mountain

(Matthew 17:9; 2 Peter 1:16-21)

14. Peter later described the Transfiguration as a “light shining in a dark place.”

- How can past experiences with God help sustain us during difficult seasons?

15. Why is it important that mountaintop moments are not meant to be permanent?

7. Personal Application: Where Is Jesus Calling You to Listen?

16. Where might Jesus be inviting you into a small “death to self” right now?

17. What would cross-shaped faithfulness look like this week in:

- your home
- your work or school
- your friendships
- your church life