

Sermon Outline

May 11 – “Glimpses of Glory”
Matthew 17:1-13

- ✝ Intro: The Sun and the Clouds

- ✝ The Glory of God

- ✝ The experience: Glimpsing behind the veil

- ✝ The purpose: Faith and Sight

- ✝ The meaning: Jesus is our tabernacle

- ✝ The application: A City on a Hill

Points to Ponder to Prepare

May 18 – “Mountains and Mustard Seeds”
Matthew 17:14-23

- While three of the disciples are experiencing an epiphany, the other nine are experiencing frustration and failure. Read Matthew 17:14-23.
- ✝ The word the father uses to describe his son is literally “struck by the moon”. What are we told of his condition?

 - ✝ What was the true nature of his condition? How does Jesus do to cure him?

 - ✝ Why weren’t the nine disciples able to drive out the demon?

 - ✝ What teaching and encouragement does Jesus give them?

 - ✝ What is the lesson about the power of God?

 - ✝ After they return to Galilee, Jesus instructs them once again. How does this tie together Ch 16: 13 – 17:23?

 - ✝ How have the disciples changed in these chapters?

Scripture readings for the week

Sunday May 11	John 5:1-23
Monday May 12	John 5:24-47
Tuesday May 13	John 6:1-24
Wednesday May 14	John 6:25-59
Thursday May 15	John 6:6 - 7:13
Friday May 16	John 7:14-44
Saturday May 17	John 7:45 – 8:11
Sunday May 18	John 8:12-30

Prayer Focus

This week, let’s join together for our missionaries and ministry partners. Specific prayer updates can be found below and on the back side of the page.

John and Ruth Hoekwater

The Summer Mission Team has been in contact with John, preparing to go to Chicago in August. The team will be doing repairs and maintenance on local greenhouses and outdoor planting beds. They will also be preparing meals for a daily feeding program that does lunch, also some community outreach, and construction and maintenance. Please be in prayer on how God is planning to use you for this mission: maybe you will be going, maybe you can help out at a fund raiser for this trip, maybe you can donate supplies for the trip.

Missionary Moments

Josh and Mandy Shaarda

They recently returned to Uganda after being at a Freedom in Christ conference in Poland. It was very encouraging.

The International Director of Freedom in Christ has asked Josh to be the Deputy Director of Freedom in Christ International. This is an honor, a little overwhelming, more change, a new leadership roll, but God is answering prayers and giving them direction.

Makai is doing better recovering from pneumonia. He is in good health but dealing with fevers again maybe due to allergies.

Freedom in Christ team in Uganda went to the Congo. Amazing things are happening there. They are teaching on forgiveness. In Josh and Mandy's newsletter they will share testimonies from some in Congo.

Prayers for Peace, Wisdom and timing

Lydia and Grace doing well on exams.

For the Freedom in Christ marriage course, they need to complete the writing, start filming in August, and find a place to do the filming.

Lydia Shaarda's year of college at Moody Bible Institute is coming to an end. She has grown in her love for the Lord and in awe of His awesome power. The Lord has proved Himself abundantly time and time again throughout the school year. She is grieving leaving the new church she has found there; the congregation has become like family to her. When school is finished Lydia will spend about two weeks in Michigan with Grace and her grandparents. She then will go to Missouri for a 3-day training with Project Rescue. The month of June and first half of

July she will be in Thailand with the Project Rescue missionaries. Their main focus is antitrafficking work in the red-light district of Bangkok. The team focuses on developing relationships with victims, sharing the gospel, intercession and connecting to resources where they can find freedom.

Midway through July she will leave Thailand and fly to Ethiopia. There she will meet up with Grace, and they will help Freedom in Christ co-workers run and English learning camp for Muslim children. If anyone wants to receive her blog or upcoming prayer letters email her at lydia03obule@oulook.com

Grace Shaarda is finishing her first year at Dordt.

She has had some hard times but has grown a lot through them. Grace will be in Michigan for the month of May. She will then leave to Uganda for 6 weeks to be with her family and help Mandy with home schooling the other kids, so Mandy is available to help Josh with the marriage course. She will head to Ethiopia in the middle of July, to meet up with Lydia to work with the Freedom in Christ group running and English learning camp for Muslim children using Bible curriculum.

Grace's specific prayers

She has been dealing with some health issues and is asking for prayers of peace and health as she finishes school. Prayers for safety as she does a lot of traveling.

Crossroads Christian Fellowship

Pray we will find some creative and better ways to either include children in worship or find some ways for them to break out at times from our worship services. We are to the point of launching Sunday School. Pray that we will retain the several new

people who are worshiping with us and that they will find meaningful ways to serve in our church.

The Slacks

They have been attending a diverse and mission-focused church.

Juniper has started school and is making lots of new friends, at school, church and in the neighborhood. Matt and Emily have been meeting with local church leaders and mission leaders to explore ministry opportunities.

Prayers for God's direction as they explore new places and meet new people.

Emily DeRuiter

Emily, a videographer for a college student ministry called, Cru, has gone on 4 film shoots so far in 2025. Every time she visits a college campus and hears stories of God's goodness and majesty transforming the lives of the young people. She gets a renewed joy in the power of Jesus Christ.

Her team is planning on capturing a big, encouraging story: a revival is sweeping the campus of Ole Miss, affecting both parents and students involved in the Greek system. Entire Greek houses have hosted meetings with the proclamation of the Gospel, followed by large groups of faithful decisions to follow Christ. Cru videographers have been at the campus of the University of Mississippi to capture this story in real time. Pray for the students and parents at Ole Miss as Emily's team works diligently to capture their story to share with others.