

A FACE LIKE THE SUN

MATTHEW 17:1

- “Six days later” — Jesus’ disciples have been up and down, facing questions and doubts, for some time. They were allowed to struggle and grapple with seemingly conflicting information.
- Why these three disciples?
- The scene is reminiscent of other great events from the Bible. It was upon a mountain that Abraham showed his faith. The Law was given on a mountain. Atop mountains, battles were won, visions revealed, prophets vindicated, judgments made. Jesus was tempted on a mountain, and eventually crucified on one as well.

MATTHEW 17:2

- Human language fails to fully explain what happens in this scene. The gospel writers do their best, but surely they would admit that even the sun in all its glory would still be outshone by Christ's glory!
- Hebrews 1:3, 1 Peter 2:9, Revelation 21:23, 22:5
- This was a pivotal moment for the disciples, as both Peter and John refer to it later in life (2 Pet. 1:16f, Jn. 1:14).
- The transfiguration was a glimpse into the true appearance of the Son. It was a transcendent visage that pointed to His divine nature — and to what we will become when we're no longer physical beings (1 Cor. 15:49, 1 John 3:2).

MOSES AND ELIJAH?!

- One can only speculate about why Moses and Elijah, of all the great saints from ages past, were chosen to meet Jesus on the mountain.
- They shared a number of similarities, most notably the unnatural circumstances surrounding their departure from physical life.
- The disciples needed to be reminded that physical death is not the end of our existence. They've been shocked and dismayed by Jesus' prediction about His death, but seeing two long-gone servants of God in spirit would have left quite an impression — death is not annihilation!

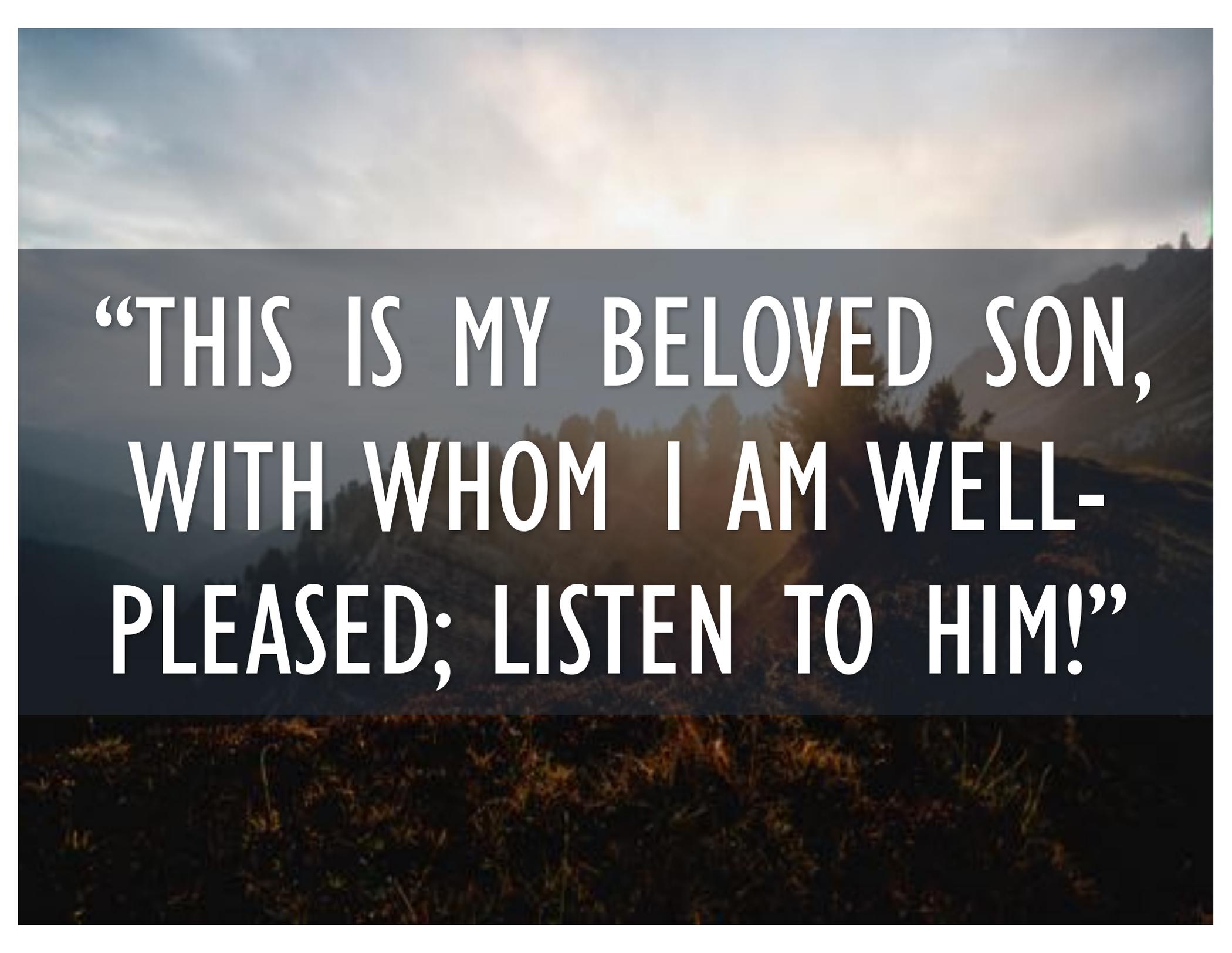
I don't always put my foot
in my mouth,
sometimes I put them
both in.



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MATTHEW 17:4

- Obviously, Peter is impressed with the scene. May we all be equally in awe of Christ's glory. What he lacked was a filter. Not every situation needs our commentary or our good ideas. Some things are meant to be observed, not improved upon.
- Be sure to think through your ideas before voicing them.
- Peter was talking when he should have been listening and learning.
- Also, what kind of tabernacle was Peter going to slap together that would have been equal to the occasion? Some ideas only sound good on paper.



**“THIS IS MY BELOVED SON,
WITH WHOM I AM WELL-
PLEASED; LISTEN TO HIM!”**