Introduction

Have you ever been afraid that God was going to ask you to do something you didn’t want to do?

Even Christians can struggle with surrendering control of their life to Christ.

The result is that we try to control God. We try to keep God in a box.

There are many people who have been hesitant to surrender their life to Christ because of that fear.

• Fear that God is going to ask me to give up my sinful behavior.
• Fear that I won’t have any fun.
• Fear that he may change my plans.

“I would like to buy $3 worth of God, please, not enough to explode my soul or disturb my sleep, but just enough to equal a cup of warm milk or a snooze in the sunshine. I don’t want enough of him to make me love a black man or pick beets with a migrant. I want ecstasy, not transformation; I want the warmth of the womb, not a new birth. I want a pound of the Eternal in a paper sack. I would like to buy $3 worth of God please.” Wilbur Rees
But Jesus doesn’t fit in a box. 
Jesus said, “The thief (Satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they (you) may have life, and have it to the full (abundantly).” John 10:10

The way to find real hope, real peace and real joy is by surrendering our life to him.

I. Jesus is the Son of God. 
Matthew 17:1-3

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Matthew 16:16
Peter got it, but there was more to learn about Jesus.
“He was transfigured before them.”
His glory that was veiled by his human flesh now shone through.

The disciples were stunned.
“No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.” John 1:18

Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus.
• Moses was the lawgiver, Elijah the prophet.
• Both saw God’s glory on the mountain top on Mt Sinai and Mt Horeb.
• Both were taken up to heaven.
Moses and Elijah were great, but Jesus is greater still.

II. Jesus is Lord.
Matthew 17:4-8

Jesus is Lord over all. He is preeminent.
Peter missed it. Peter offered to build three shelters – as though all were equal.
God the Father spoke. “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

It is the same thing God said at Jesus’ baptism (Matthew 3:17) with one important addition. “Listen to him!”
How many of our problems would be solved if we would listen to him? To listen includes obedience.

When they heard the voice of God, they fell on their faces in terror. But Jesus came and touched them and said, “Don’t be afraid.” When they looked up, they saw only Jesus.

Jesus stands alone. There is no one like him.
III. Jesus is Savior.
Matthew 17:9-13

“Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”
Jesus spoke of his suffering. Peter didn’t understand.

But on the mountain top, God himself had joined these two ideas together.

• “This is my Son” is a quote from Psalm 2 – a Psalm about the coronation of the King, God’s Son, the Messiah.
• “With whom I am well pleased” is a quote from Isaiah 42:1, which is about God’s suffering servant. See also Isaiah 52 and 53.

Conclusion

Jesus stands alone.
• He is God.
• He is Lord.
• He is Savior.
Listen to him!

What is he saying to you?
Where do you need to listen and obey?
Where do you need to trust him more and fear less?