

Likewise, Elijah represented the prophets, that other collection of Hebrew scripture that, along with the Law and Writings, completed the Hebrew Bible. In meeting with Elijah and Moses, Jesus demonstrated his superiority to them: his teaching fulfilled theirs perfectly, his coming sacrifice would supplant the old way of the Law, and he was *the* prophet predicted in Deuteronomy 18:18.

At the transfiguration the glory of the preincarnate Son of God temporarily broke through the limitations of his humanity. In this appearance, Jesus confirmed Peter’s verbal proclamation that he was the Messiah.

How did Peter react? How do you think you would have reacted?

Peter was obviously overwrought watching this scene unfold. He saw Jesus in a completely different way. **In what ways does this vision of Jesus’s divine glory change, enhance, or challenge your usual view of him?**

2. Peek at the Greek: diakonos

While describing his expectations for great disciples, Jesus uses two words in Mark 10:43–44. The first appears in verse 43 and is translated “servant.” It’s the Greek word *diakonos*, where we get our English “deacon” from. If the disciples want to be great, they must be a servant. The word implies the idea of a higher-powered servant in a household—one who might even be an administrator. It may not be the lordly position the disciples were after, but it’s not a terrible substitute. But then Jesus chooses a different word to drive his point home in verse 44. There, he says the first in the kingdom must be the *doulos*, or “slave,” of all. Unlike a servant, a slave in those days had no standing and no rights. He or she was subject entirely to the whims of his or her master. If the disciples wanted to be first, they would have to submit not just to Jesus but to each other.

A favorite term in modern Christian writing is servant-leader. It’s a popular way of describing how one should lead—with the manner of a servant. But what if we focused on the servant part alone, without the leadership aspect? **How would that change your attitude toward following Christ?**

What words or images does the term “servant” bring to mind? What emotions do you feel thinking about being someone’s servant?

What does it look like in your life to serve Jesus?
