

Whoops, Nicodemus! I apologize for missing the right Gospel (will aim to double-check going forward). Try this, if you like: Matthew's Jesus teaches differently than John's, which is nice to notice. In Matthew's transfiguration reading (17:1-9), Jesus provides an experience for his friends that he knows they cannot understand at the moment. He says to them in effect, don't struggle with it now, but go back to it later, afterwards. So what were Jesus, Moses, and Elijah talking about? Not law and prophets: too big, too vague. Their common interest is *irregular departures*: Elijah, you recall, went off in a chariot; Moses wandered off and they lost track and could not find him to bury later (they *lost Moses?*); and Jesus has this particular adventure ahead of him and is up for any pointers he can get. So they three talk about that, but we don't need the script of their conversation; what we now do need, post-resurrection, is insight about what Jesus' irregular departure (died and was raised) has to do with the role of the cosmic Christ. How to listen when we don't really have a clue and not be frightened but allured!

