



*We've Only
Just Begun*

S E R M O N G U I D E

We've Only Just Begun

Matthew 17:1-8, 14-20

INTRODUCTION

NOTES

This message is a celebration of the 21 years that I've been the pastor of Mt. Ennon. As we celebrate 21 years of this marriage between pastor and people, I want to borrow from the late '80s R&B singer Glenn Jones, who said: "We've only just begun, the romance is not over." That's the theme today: we've only just begun. And though we've done great things together, there is still more God has for us to do.

KEY POINTS

1. Let's Celebrate What We've Accomplished

Jesus took an inner circle of disciples up the mountain to fellowship and pray, and there they got a glimpse of God's glory. Like John said, "we beheld His glory." This was an appropriate celebration of the move of God. And as we commemorate another year of ministry and service together, it would behoove us to take inventory of what has happened on this mountain called Mt. Ennon. We began with a vision rooted in faith, and by God's grace, we've seen that vision come to life. We've grown, spoken out for justice, empowered the community, supported health and wellness, embraced innovation, expanded our campus, and invested in the next generation. And guess what? The best is yet to come. This is not to be self-serving, but simply to say: "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion." God is still doing a good work in us.

2. Don't Turn the Mountain Into a Memorial

Peter proposed to turn a moment into a monument: “Lord, it’s wonderful for us to be here! If you want, I’ll make three shelters as memorials...” Peter was so captivated by the move of God, he literally did not want to leave. But ministry moments should never be turned into monuments. God’s Spirit is ever moving. While God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, His methods change. We must adapt and not get stuck on how it used to be done. Like the bronze snake from Numbers 21, what once worked can become a stumbling block if we idolize it. God alone deserves the glory. We should never become so fixated on what God did that we miss what God is about to do.

No Limits with Pastor Delman

We've Only Just Begun

Matthew 17:1-8, 14-20

3. Let's Do More to Advance the Church and Further God's Kingdom

After the mountain experience, Jesus leads them down where they are met by a man whose son needs healing. The Spirit was high on the mountain, but the need was in the valley. The whole purpose of worship is to encounter God's glory so we are empowered to meet the needs of those in the valley. Dr. King once said, "Any religion... not concerned about the slums... the economic conditions... the social conditions... is a dry-as-dust religion awaiting burial." We must descend this mountain not reminiscing, but resolute. Coming to church is not enough. We need disciples in the game — praying, serving, tithing, mentoring, feeding, teaching, calling the sick — because every believer has a vital role to play. We've only just begun. There are more lives to touch, more souls to rescue, and more disciples to nurture. Let's commit to doing greater things because God's purpose for us continues to unfold.

NOTES

[illegible]

No Limits with Pastor Delman

We've Only Just Begun

Matthew 17:1-8, 14-20

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. In what ways can we celebrate the ministry accomplishments of our church without becoming complacent?
2. What “monuments” from the past might we need to let go of in order to fully embrace what God wants to do next?
3. How is God calling you personally to move from the sidelines into the game — to serve, give, or lead in this next season?
