

Seedling Group Questions for the week of February 24 – The Transfiguration of Our Lord

The sermon for February 24, “Brought to You by the Letter B, for ‘Beloved’”

can be found at www.saidanotherway.org

Questions for opening up

Other than Jesus (😊) what would you consider to be the two most significant authorities in your life for teaching you how to live? Why?

What is your favorite saying of Jesus'? Why?

Read Exodus 24:12-18

Moses spends six days in the glory of the Lord on Mount Sinai before he hears God speak. Is that a long time? Short time? What significance, if any, does that time frame have?

Moses alone gets to experience God on the mountain. How often do you find yourself believing or agreeing with another person's private religious experience? Does anything challenge you regarding single-person accounts of encountering the divine?

Read Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus and his disciples go up the mountain of Transfiguration six days after Jesus' first prediction of his Passion (and after his subsequent rebuke of Peter for denying Jesus' upcoming suffering). What significance, if any, does that time frame have?

The presence of Moses and Elijah during Jesus' transfiguration grant meaning and authority to Jesus' identity and mission. How would you describe Jesus' identity and mission? Why does this matter to you?

Peter calls Jesus “Lord” and the voice of God calls him “the Beloved.” Why are those two terms important? How often do you think of Jesus in terms of “Lord” and “Beloved”? One more than the other?

Putting things together

Pastor Phillip says, *“The key then to understanding who Jesus truly is...will lie not in seeking out or prolonging the religious experiences, as holy as they may be, but in listening to him, taking in his words...”* How challenging is this for you? How does a person strike a balance between the importance of holy, transfiguring experiences and the daily tasks of listening to God's Word?

What parallels can you see between Moses' Sinai experience and Jesus' transfiguration? Between Jesus' transfiguration and the cross?

Making it personal

Which experiences (or lessons) have lent authority to Jesus—or increased his authority—in your life? Why?

Of the three descriptions Pastor Phillip gives for the meaning of Jesus' life and death—as sacrifice, as rescuer, and as purifier—which relates best to your faith and relationship with God?

Exodus 24:12-18

¹²The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." ¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Matthew 17:1-9

¹Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."