

Seedling Group Questions for the week of March 3 – The Transfiguration of Our Lord

The sermon for March 3 can be found at www.saidanotherway.org

Questions for opening up

Other than being in an airplane (or aircraft), what is the highest elevation you've ever been to? What was it like?

Share a place or time when you experienced God in an unusual way. Describe what happened.

Read Exodus 34:29-35

Why does Moses' face shine when he comes down the mountain? Why do the people respond the way they do? What do you make of this?

Describe the role of the veil. What seems to be its function? When does Moses use it? What kinds of things veil God's glory from people today, especially in the life of the church? Are there things about worship that seem mysterious and secretive?

Read Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

Why does Jesus only take these three disciples with him up the mountain to pray?

What is the significance of the appearance of Moses and Elijah? What does this say about Jesus' identity?

Why might the disciples need to hear the three things the voice says: "This is my Son, the Chosen; listen to him!" Which of those three things would you say you need to take to heart the most at this time? Why?

The transfiguration of Jesus has always been somewhat of a mystery. What about it do you find inspiring or confusing?

Putting things together

Have you ever felt that your relationship with God has formed some sort of "veil" in your relationships with others, particularly with those who may not share your beliefs? What have you done in those situations?

Pastor Phillip says, "*Jesus' exodus is going to show that everyone in any circumstance is already present with God. Jesus' death is going to reveal that God climbs down into every possible place we might find ourselves in. That's not secret knowledge.*" How aware have you been of God's presence in all points of your life? What things help to cultivate the faith that God give himself to us at all times, as we are?

Making it personal

How often have you succumbed to Peter's desire (or Pastor Ryan Dueck's) to "camp out" in the mountaintop experiences of life?

How have you encountered suffering in other people this week? What has been your response?

Exodus 34:29-35

²⁹Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³²Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” ³⁶When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. [

³⁷On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” ⁴¹Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” ⁴²While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ^{43a}And all were astounded at the greatness of God.]