

"What The Transfiguration Teaches Us" Transfiguration

1)

Mark 9:2-9

2)

February 14, 2021

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to him be glory both now and forever. Amen. (2 Thess. 3:5)
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Think of that place that you really want to go to – the place perhaps that you're planning a vacation to place that you've never been before you go. There you experience it and you just think to yourself how amazing this is take a lot of pictures and then you head back home and you probably go and tell people about it. Perhaps they ask you how was your trip and you can't wait to tell them and at the end. Everything you say you say you have to go and see it for yourself. That's what it's like when we get this breathtaking experience when we have the opportunity to view the awesome sites to take in whatever it is that we went and traveled sometimes a great distance to go and see.

Can you imagine what it would have been like to be on that Holy Mountain with Jesus and to see Jesus Shine in all his glory. We're told about his clothes here that they were whiter than anyone could bleach them. Other gospel accounts tell us that his face Shone brighter than the sun. Remember when your parents told you not to look into the sun Jesus really was that bright and yet when we think about the Transfiguration of Jesus A lot of times and I don't know about you, but perhaps we think to yourselves or I think to myself what exactly does the Transfiguration teaches. And that's exactly what we want to think about here this evening. What does the Transfiguration teach us? Well, when we look at these what eat versus here in Mark chapter 9 we're reminded what it tells us about Jesus – what it tells us about Believers – and finally what it tells us about the Lord's will.

What Transfiguration teaches us...about Jesus

² After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

So what does the Transfiguration teach us about Jesus?
After six days – Well, what happened six days ago – six days after Jesus made the first prediction of his approaching passion and death. There was a time in an opportunity for Jesus to ask his disciples – Well, **who do the people say that I am? Some say Moses, some say Elijah. Some say one of the prophets.** They weren't quite sure. We know that you have a lot of ability and capability Jesus. We've seen you perform many miracles, but we're not quite sure maybe Elijah came back to life at this is him and yet we hear Peter Proclaim. **You are the Christ the son of the Living God.** And with that we're reminded exactly who Jesus is.

Jesus encouraged his disciples at that time to not say anything to not reveal this truth that Jesus is the son of God quite yet. It wasn't quite time. So after six days Jesus took them took the three disciples with him up on to the Mountaintop and they had a Mountaintop experience. Can you imagine what it would have been like to see Jesus there and all of his glory and then on top of that to see Moses and Elijah standing there with them now about Moses and Elijah. Why were those two characters there?

We'll talk about that a little bit more in a moment, but if you remember Moses is one of the characters that got took up the mount in and gathered him to himself. We don't know where it is grave is here to this day and we're also told about Elijah in our first lesson, then he was taken up to heaven. And one truth that we know about this not necessarily about Jesus, but for you and I is what heaven will be like and that we would know each other simply from the fact that Moses and Elijah were there and you could recognize that these were the two prophets who are identified here and our gospel lesson. A lot of us might ask that question. Will we know so and so will we know our our spouse will we know our children in heaven?

There's nothing to say that we won't. In fact this lesson here kind of reassures us that we will. And what about Jesus? Moses and Elijah weren't the center of attention on this day on this Mountaintop of experience. It certainly was Jesus himself. His face would shine in glory. Much like his face shown to Moses. When Moses asked to see the glory of the Lord. God had told Moses. I

will put you up in the cleft of the rock and asked my glory passes by you can't see it for no one can see the face of God and live you can only see my back as I go by. And yet here's Jesus appearing then with Moses and Elijah in all his glory. Why would it be important? For Jesus to share this with his disciples and then if you skip right to the end of our lesson here today, he would say don't say anything until the resurrection from the dead because something was about to happen. Jesus was about to leave them. How would they see Jesus and certainly as you and I will travel to the cross over the 40 days of Lent that starts here this Wednesday. We see Jesus go through all sorts of pain and suffering and death beaten in my flog Crown of Thorns put onto his head stretched out onto the cross Nails pierced. Into his hands and a spear pierced.

Is that the savior of the world that you had hoped for for the people of Jesus day perhaps they were looking for someone to get rid of the Roman rule at the time Peter.

Jesus knew what was about to happen? He knew what was about to happen. Not only to himself that he would go to the cross and paid for the sins of the world. Put to give the disciples a glimpse of Glory reminded his disciples as it reminds you and I about Jesus the Transfiguration teaches us that Jesus is the son of God that God had a Plan of Salvation for all the world and he chose to send his one and only son to take away the sins of the world not just once in not just many sins all sin.

Every sin you've ever committed every sin I've ever committed wiped away and it's the perfect holy and sinless Son of God had accepted Jesus sacrifice isn't that another aspect of what the Transfiguration teaches us when the cloud appears and then a voice comes From the cloud saying this is my son. We'll get to the directive in this voice here in a moment. But once the last time that we heard that wasn't it just a few weeks ago about a month ago when we heard at the baptism of Jesus. This is my son whom I love in him. I am well pleased what God is reminding us here. Not only in that cloud of his baptism, but the voice said also came at the cloud of transfiguration. Was that God accepted Jesus sacrifice that God accepted Jesus on his mission to redeem the world from all sin. And as the disciples would go to the cross it you and I go to

the cross and we see Jesus suffering and dying for the sins of the world. We can remember

Perhaps even have flashbacks to this very moment of that Mountaintop experience and to see Jesus in all his glory and that the suffering and death that he would pay for on the cross certainly would not be the end. As you think about Slesin here. We are also reminded not only what the Transfiguration teaches us about Jesus, but also what it teaches us about Believers

What the Transfiguration Teaches Us...about ourselves

⁴ And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

⁵ Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶ (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

Moses and Elijah lived several years before and about that in Moses and Elijah is life. If you were to characterize it you would say that there are times and Pockets where they work great leaders or great speakers or so Elijah the poses. And then there were also times that they faced fears and they were frightened and they had doubts so much. So like Elijah that he ran away so much Soul like Moses that he ran away to Midian. And God called them back to leave his people. God called Elijah back to preach and Proclaim to his people.

When you think about the disciples that were there that day, how are they characterized?

Are we told that they were frightened? Right We're told and in your bulletin here today. It's got a little set of parentheses about it because it really is like a caption write a caption next to or like you might see in a comic strip giving a little more detailed description about that brightness if that is even a word and it's the simple fact that Peter didn't know what to do. Peter. Didn't know what to say. He was dumbfounded. Was confounded by what was happening right before his very eyes. That he had the opportunity to witness and see the glory of Jesus. Also like him to say If you think about it some pretty foolish things. Lord, it's good for us to be here. Well, you got that right put Let Us build a sheltered so we can stay here. We want to continue to keep this moment of Glory

not only now, but we want to keep it our whole life long. We don't ever want to leave.

Before you know it the next verse what happens that moment of Glorious over Moses and Elijah are gone. And all they saw was Jesus because the Believers were reminded that the Transfiguration tells them tells us. These leaders of the church.

Peter James and John were reminded that they too had their own fears much like you and I have fears. Looks like you and I at times can be frightened at what life throws at us. It's not always a Mountaintop experience. Sometimes we have to face the valleys. Where's the song writer says the Valley of the shadow of death and it's a hard thing to do and it's a difficult thing to do but God reminds us and one thing he teaches us here today that he uses these experiences for us to continue to build off it strengthen our faith like he did with the disciples. He does the same thing for you, and I he allows us to experience those Mountaintop experiences so that we're ready and we're prepared for having to go through valleys.

What the Transfiguration Teaches Us...about God's Will for our lives

⁷ Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

But the last thing I want to focus on here tonight is the aspect of what the Transfiguration teaches us about God and that aspect is the very well the one verse that I had mentioned before that we've come back to and that's that voice from the cloud. What a God the Father say about Jesus. This is my son listen to him.

Have you been listening to Jesus?

We come to church to listen to Jesus. We open up our Bibles at home the listen to Jesus children sit with their parents to have them read the Bible to them. So they can listen to Jesus listening to Jesus is important so important that God describes it in the Bible as listening to Jesus and meditating on God's word as being the man or person who is truly Blessed blessed beyond belief. Jesus would say blessed is the one who hears the word of God and Obey is it if you want that true blessing in your life. Listen to Jesus if you're wondering about work, if you're

wondering about life and death issues if you're wondering about how whatever it might be.

Go to Jesus for the answers and listen to him. And what does he have to say the same thing that he's been saying to you at your confirmation or at your baptism the same thing he said to you every time you've attended here in church the same thing that he had the opportunity and privilege to say that in cycles of over and over and over again.

I am the light of the world. Light no Darkness

Jesus Much like he would say as so many aspects of his ministry. Don't Focus so much on all these other things. Don't look at all these outside influences, but look in focus. Focus on the one thing that truly matters Listen to Jesus. What is the Transfiguration teach us? Well, it teaches us about Jesus and about his glory. He teaches us a little bit even about ourselves and about Believers at times. It can be frightened. But God gives us those Mountaintop experiences so that we can face those valleys and finally we're reminded to listen to Jesus and to see those blessings that follow but you know, what else he teaches us here. He teaches us a simple aspect to of what it means to follow and be a disciple of Christ.

The think about it in terms of not only do I need to listen to Jesus, but I also need to be the voice of Jesus throughout all my life.

Let's pray – Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us the Mountaintop experience. We're reminded of these things before we see here in Lent the suffering and death that you took to take away the sins of the world continue to bless us in our life and remind us that you give us those Mountaintop experiences that we might be able to face the balance of life and that in all things. We want us to listen to you and when we listen to you we find that we are truly blessed continue to be with us. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen. (Phil.4:7)

² After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

⁵ Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶ (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

⁷ Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”

⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.