

## Bible Study for Transfiguration Sunday, Sunday Feb 11, 2024

### Our texts for this Sunday are:

- 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- Mark 9:2-9

### Read 2 Corinthians 4:3-6:

<sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

What do you like/dislike in the passage?

What might Paul mean when he says the Gospel is veiled?

What do you think vs 4 means? How do you feel about it? Would you want someone to read that in reference to you?

A church sign reads, "A Christian is someone who makes it easier for another person to believe in God." What do you think that means? In what ways do we sometimes "veil" or obscure the Good News of Jesus?

Talk about how a *veiled* Christian life and an *unveiled* Christian life might differ?

How might we live an "unveiled life?"

Does unveiled equal authentic?

### Read Mark 9:2-9 The Transfiguration

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one<sup>[a]</sup> on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings,<sup>[b]</sup> one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved;<sup>[c]</sup> listen to him!" <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

Some have said about the Transfiguration that this event is an “unveiling,” that the disciples are simply able to see Jesus clearly for who He is in all of His glory. It’s not that something has happened to change Jesus, it’s just that the disciples are seeing things, for a brief moment, as they really are. The veil has been lifted for a moment, and what used to seem quite ordinary now is seen as it really is.

What does it say about this event that it is recorded in all three Synoptic Gospels (M, M & L)? Why might it be important to spend time in this text every year? How is this an appropriate text to end the season of Epiphany (the season of Light coming into the world)?

The Greek word that Mark uses for the Transfiguration is the same word that Paul uses to describe the change that is to take place within ourselves: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed (transfigured) by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)

- What does it mean for you and me to be transformed (or “transfigured”) as followers of Jesus?
- What might be a necessary key skill (something learned) for that to happen?

It has been said that God gave Ten Commandments on the mountain top in the Old Testament and only one commandment in the New Testament: “Listen to Him (Jesus).” What are your thoughts on that statement?

Of all the things that God *could have* said to the disciples God said “Listen.” Are there different kinds of listening? What kind of listening do you think God may have been talking about here?

What is needed for listening to happen? Is your busyness an unconscious (or conscious) attempt to avoid this kind of listening? What keeps you from devoting more time to quiet and listening? What might it mean to (actually) listen to Jesus?

How might a lack of prayer (and listening to and for Jesus) in our lives a possible indicator of pride?

This Transfiguration text is bracketed by Jesus telling the disciples of His impending death. In other words, what happened on that mountain top took place between Jesus’ two statements of impending change. Maybe that event was about preparing and helping the disciples live through the coming change. What might the Transfiguration teach and show us about how to live in the midst of change? How might God’s words for the disciples be useful when this happened to us?