

March 21, 2010 - Mountaintop Joy – The Transfiguration - Luke 9:28-36 (Mark 9:2-8)

1. Jesus sets the standard for prayer
 - a. Jesus prayed in private many times
 - b. He also made a habit of public prayer that set an example for us.
 - i. Example of submission
 - ii. Example of humility
 - iii. Example of obedience
2. His appearance was altered – robe was white and glistening.
 - a. I'm not going down a legalism road of manner of dress or physical appearance
 - i. I've always believed when God gets hold of the heart on the inside He will clean up the outside.
 - b. There is a change in countenance when a person comes into true contact with God.
 - i. The old is passed away and all things become new
 - ii. A light shines in a formerly dark place
 - iii. There ought to be something appealing and inviting about a Christian
 1. Too often we judge the degree of sanctification by the droop of our chin!
 - c. Jesus was in a “heavenly” place; the presence of the Father; and it changed even his physical appearance!
3. Moses and Elijah appeared talking with him.
 - a. What a fulfillment for these two giants of the faith – The Law and the Prophets
 - i. Heroes of the faith died without seeing Jesus - Hebrews. 11:13 “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”
 - ii. 11:39 “And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, 40: God having provided something better for us...”
 - b. Spoke about his decease
 - i. Better than anyone, they knew the prophecy of crucifixion.
 - ii. Better than anyone, they knew the faithfulness of the Father to keep his promises.
 - iii. They had “been there, done that” with the Father and built up the full man part of Jesus.
 - c. To be “Accomplished” at Jerusalem
 - i. They reassured – to “accomplish” is to achieve, to get done, to realize, to carry out, to FINISH a work assigned

4. Peter John and James were awakened from a deep sleep to see Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah.
 - a. Scripture does not say how they identified Moses and Elijah (Hi there, my name is!!)
 - b.
5. Peter said “It is good for us to be here... let’s stay!”
 - a. This might be my reaction too
 - i. Events just before the transfiguration included a storm at sea; a legion of demons in a herd of pigs; a funeral (even though the daughter did not stay dead); feeding of 5,000 (while great was still a lot of work for 12 men to accomplish); and Jesus began speaking about suffering and dying!
 - b. Not knowing what he said
 - i. Mountaintop joy is intended to prepare you to go back to the valley
 - ii. This is part of our challenge (my challenge as pastor)
 1. We enjoy being here... on this mountain... but let us never forget about the world outside this place; the valley (New River Valley?) of our mission.
 2. We soak in the love of God, love of each other, and then take it from here to a community that is desperate need of true Godly love
6. The cloud and the voice
 - a. The cloud is familiar
 - i. Exodus’ cloud visualized the presence and leadership of God.
 - b. The Voice is familiar
 - i. God spoke audibly “in the beginning.”
 - ii. God spoke audibly to Moses at the burning bush
 - iii. God spoke audibly at Jesus’ baptism
 - c. This is my beloved Son, hear him.
 - i. No greater affirmation than when the Father is well pleased.
 1. We anticipate by faith hearing “well done my good and faithful servant.”
7. I believe the events on the Mount of Transfiguration were the seminal event that enabled Christ to later pray, “Not my will but Thine be done.”
 - a. Have you had a transfiguration moment?
 - b. Have you had a Gethsemane moment?