

Rev. Thomas Emery
“The Transfiguration” Mark 9:2-9
Salem Presbyterian Church
Sunday, February 22, 2015

The disciples could not have been prepared for what would take place on that particular mountain that day. They saw a sudden change come over Jesus, and He appeared in a brilliant light. Mark tells it, "His clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them." Yes, the disciples knew Jesus was special, but they had never experienced anything like this. They saw Jesus transfigured right in front of them. More than that, they saw Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah.

Moses, gave the people the Ten Commandments, and he led them to the Promised Land. Elijah was the first prophet, and he was taken up into heaven in a chariot of fire. The Jewish people commonly believed that Elijah would return one day in the same way he departed. These two represented the Law and the Prophets, the foundation of authority in Jewish life.

TEACHING POINTS

Teaching Point One: *Jesus can't be put into a box.* One can't believe the Bible and doubt the divinity of Jesus Christ.

Teaching Point Two: *There are times when God interrupts our lives.*

Teaching Point Three: *Our mountaintop experiences prepare us for life in the valleys of the ordinary world.*

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

^{2b}As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed, ³ and his clothes became dazzling white, far whiter than any earthly bleach could ever make them. (Mark 9: 2b-3 NLT).

ACTION POINT

They witnessed one of the most spectacular and dramatic incidents in the life of Jesus, known as the Transfiguration. The confused disciples were given a preview of what the future held. At that very special moment, they saw an amazing sight, a combination of heaven and earth, time and all eternity. Along with Mark, both Matthew and Luke record this story, and they all record it as an experience of ecstasy. How do you explain such a marvelous scene? You don't! You just accept it as the eternal God again witnessing to who his Son was. There are dimensions of life beyond the obvious which are not reached through logic or reason, but through passion, through awe. God wants us to be sure of Jesus, and sure of ourselves. It can happen when we close out the daily routine and intently focus on God.

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