

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen!

Have you ever had a moment that changed everything? A moment of clarity where suddenly everything made sense? Perhaps it was the day you got married, and you realized that your life was forever intertwined with another's. Or the birth of a child, where in an instant, your perspective on love and responsibility transformed. Maybe it was a hardship—losing a job, facing an illness, or the death of a loved one—something that reshaped your priorities and deepened your faith.

For Peter, James, and John, the Transfiguration was that kind of moment. They had followed Jesus, heard His teachings, and witnessed His miracles. They had seen Him heal the sick, calm the storm, and even raise the dead. But now, for the first time, they saw Him in His divine glory.

Luke tells us that Jesus took these three disciples up the mountain to pray. And as He prayed, something extraordinary happened. His face changed, and His clothing became dazzling white. Then, two figures appeared—Moses and Elijah—talking with Jesus about His exodus, that is, his coming death and resurrection. And then, a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice spoke from heaven:

“This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to Him!”

This was no ordinary moment. This was a glimpse of heaven, a vision of Christ's majesty, a confirmation of who He truly is: the Son of God, the Savior of the world.

And yet, as much as this was a moment of glory, it was also a moment of preparation. Because from this mountain of light, Jesus would soon walk toward another mountain—the hill of Calvary, where He would suffer and die. And beyond that, on Mt. Zion, Jesus would rise from the grave.

Luke gives us this account of Jesus' transfiguration that we may be strengthened in our faith, renewed in our hope, and inspired to listen to Jesus, just as the Father encourages us to do.

Imagine standing on that mountaintop. One moment, you're praying with Jesus, and the next, you are surrounded by a brilliant, blinding light. His face shines like the sun.

His clothes are brighter than anything you've ever seen. This was not a magic trick. It was not a vision. It was the divine nature of Christ shining through His humanity.

For a brief moment, Jesus allowed Peter, James, and John to see Him as He truly is—the eternal Son of God, filled with divine glory. This was not a new glory, but the glory He had before the world began. In John 17:5, Jesus prays,

“Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world existed.”

The disciples had seen Jesus in His humility—tired, hungry, walking among sinners. But now, they saw His majesty, His power, His divine radiance.

Why did Jesus show them this? Because He knew that dark days were ahead. Soon, He would be arrested, beaten, and nailed to a cross. The disciples would see Him suffer and die. But before they witnessed the horror of Calvary, Jesus gave them this glimpse of His true identity—so that they would not lose heart in the midst of it all.

The presence of Moses and Elijah on Mt. Tabor was no accident. These two great figures represented all that had come before. Moses stood for all the teachings of God in the first part of the Old Testament. Genesis, Exodus, and so on. Sometimes Jesus calls those teachings the Law. Elijah, the great Prophet, stood for the rest of the Old Testament Bible, especially the books of the major and minor prophets.

For centuries, the Law and the Prophets had pointed forward to the coming of the Messiah. And now, standing on this mountain, Moses and Elijah – the great representatives of the same - were speaking with Jesus about His "departure"—His suffering, death, and resurrection.

This moment was a declaration: *Jesus is the fulfillment of all that had been promised.* Think of it like reading a great novel. If you pick up a book and only read the last chapter, it might not make sense. But if you read the whole story, you see how everything fits together. The Old Testament is the first part of God's great story, and Jesus is its fulfillment. This is why, after the resurrection, Jesus said to His disciples:

“Everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” (Luke 24:44)

At the Transfiguration, God the Father confirms what the entire Old Testament had been pointing to: Jesus is the Christ, the chosen one, the fulfillment of the Law and

the Prophets. As glorious as this moment was, it could not last. Peter, overwhelmed by what he saw, wanted to stay there. He said,

“Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

He wanted to hold on to the glory, to freeze this moment forever. But Jesus did not come to stay on the mountain. *He came to go to the cross.*

Luke tells us that Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus about His “departure.” The Greek word used here is *exodus*—the same word used to describe how God led Israel out of slavery in Egypt. Just as Moses led Israel out of slavery, Jesus would lead His people out of the bondage of sin. But He would do so in a way the disciples did not yet understand—through suffering, death, and resurrection.

If the Transfiguration shows us Jesus’ divine glory, the cross shows us His divine love. The One whose face shone like the sun would soon be beaten and mocked. The One whose clothes were dazzling white would soon have them stripped away by Roman soldiers. The One affirmed by the voice of the Father would soon cry out,

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46)

Why? Because He came to take our place. He bore our sins so that we might be forgiven. He suffered so that we might be redeemed.

Imagine a firefighter rushing into a burning building to save someone trapped inside. He risks everything, not because the person inside can repay him, but simply out of love. Jesus did the same for us—He entered into our suffering, our sin, and our death, so that He might rescue us.

But the cross is not the end of the story. The same Jesus who was transfigured on Mt. Tabor, the same Jesus who was crucified on Golgotha, is the same Jesus who made his exodus out of death and hell three days later in the resurrection. And this changes everything!

If Jesus had only died, we might wonder if He was just another prophet. But because He rose, we know He is the Son of God, the Savior of the world. This is why Paul says:

“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.” (1 Corinthians 15:17)

But Christ *has* been raised! And because of this, we have hope.

The road from Mt. Tabor leads to Calvary, and from Calvary to the empty tomb. And from the empty tomb to the promise of eternal life given to us. This is why the voice from heaven said, **“Listen to Him.”**

And we do listen. We listen to Him when He says, *“Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* We listen to Him when He says, *“I am the resurrection and the life.”* We listen to Him when He says, *“I am with you always.”*

Listening, we also trust in Him, follow Him, and look forward to the day when we, too, will be transformed into His likeness and in His presence forever. Amen.

The peace of God guard your hearts and minds as you believe and trust in him. Amen.

Pastor Ron Breight

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