

Luke 9:28-36 ESV

The Wonderful Blessing of ENCOURAGEMENT!



Sunday, February 7 at 8:00 & 10:45
The Transfiguration of Our Lord – 2016



This week we transition from Mondays to Wednesdays

February 10 is Ash Wednesday – Join us for Divine Service at 11 or 7

Our Free Wednesday Meals at 12 and 6 begin on February 17

Introduction: Dear friends in Jesus Christ: Life in this sinful world can be difficult, we have all experienced it. *So God invented the wonderful blessing of encouragement!* How does it work?

- **Multiple people are necessary**; they are *the givers* and *the receivers* of the encouragement.
- **Communication is necessary**; those multiple people *interact* to give and receive the encouragement.
- **Love is necessary**; the love of one person to another is what *moves a person* to give genuine encouragement.

In today's gospel reading, take note of the many expressions of encouragement:

1. **Jesus Encouraged Peter, John, and James:** ²⁸ **Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray.**



- a. **What sayings?** About eight days earlier Peter, *speaking on behalf of all the apostles*, testified that Jesus is "**The Christ of God**" (Luke 9:20 ESV).

From the gospel of Matthew, we learn that *God the Father* had made that known to Peter ([Matt. 16:17](#)); now, very soon, *up on the mountain*, that reality will be **seen** by Peter and the others!

- b. How did Jesus give encouragement? He did so **by choosing** Peter, John, and James to go with Him! So multiple people were involved, they interacted, and love was shown!

2. **Moses and Elijah Encouraged Jesus:** ²⁹ **And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white.** ³⁰ **And behold, two men were talking with him,** [who were] **Moses and Elijah,** ³¹ **who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure** [ἔξοδον], **which he was about to accomplish** [in] **Jerusalem.**



- a. Jesus encouraged the Father: How? **By drawing near to Him through prayer** to gain wisdom and strength for a very difficult part of His ministry! *Let us also draw near each day through prayer!*
- b. The Father encouraged Jesus: How? **By changing** His appearance and **by sending** Moses and Elijah.
- c. Moses and Elijah encouraged Jesus: How? **By talking with Jesus** about what was coming. We don't know what they said, but possibly something like this: "Jesus, long ago we went through much, *yet You carried us through!* Since You encouraged us, *we are here to encourage you!* Your work will open heaven to all who receive you, so be faithful – *no matter what!*"

3. **Peter Tried to Encourage Jesus, Moses, and Elijah:**

³² Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy [burdened, weighed down] with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents [booths], one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah” --not knowing [or understanding] what he said.



- a. Trying to lengthen a good experience: Think of a good experience in your life..., we want such experiences to continue as long as possible!
- b. Peter’s attempt: As Peter saw Moses and Elijah begin to leave, he tried to prolong their stay **by offering to make each of them a resting place**. Peter was expressing his joy with their presence and trying to make it continue, *yet it was time for them to leave the mountain and go to Jerusalem so Jesus could complete His mission!* We also love pleasure, yet it is time to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Jesus!

4. **God the Father Encouraged Peter, John, and James:**

³⁴ As he [Peter] was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” ³⁶ And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.



- a. The glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud: That happened over and over again in the Old Testament. However, now, that same cloud surrounded Peter, John, and James. What an experience; *what encouragement!*
- b. The Father spoke: Peter, John, and James believed that Jesus is the Christ, yet to hear the Father say, **“This is my Son, My Chosen One,”** *must have been very encouraging!*
- c. The Father made a very important point: **“listen to him!”** What does that mean? It means to ➡ *hear*, ➡ *understand*, and ➡ *take action!*
There are three categories:
 - i. **Ignore** Jesus 😞.
 - ii. **Pretend to hear** Jesus 😞.
 - iii. **Hear and understand** Jesus, **then take action** 😊! May the Holy Spirit move every heart to hear, understand, and take action!

Conclusion: As a result of today’s sermon, may the Lord help us to assess our lives on the topic of **encouragement**:

- Wherever we are communicating discouragement, *let us repent!*
- Wherever God is leading us to give encouragement, *let us speak and act in love!*
- Wherever God is leading us to receive encouragement, *let us do so with thanksgiving!*

Let us pray... And all God’s people said: **Amen!**