

The Transfiguration of Our Lord – 2025  
Saturday, 3/1 at 4:00 | Sunday, 3/2 at 9:00



Text: Luke 9:28-36 NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends: Have you ever begun to do something hard – *like losing weight*, and hoped to keep going, but then felt like quitting?

What about Jesus? He came *to take away the sin of the world* – **VERY HARD**, and yet **VERY IMPORTANT for everyone!** As we focus today on Jesus' transfiguration, *He will receive some important encouragement from Moses and Elijah!*

1. **The Setting:** <sup>28</sup> **Some eight days after these sayings, He took along Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.** // What “sayings”?
  - a. Peter said that Jesus is “**The Christ of God**” (20).
  - b. Jesus said that He would be “**rejected..., killed, and be raised on the third day**” (22).
  - c. Jesus said what it means to be His disciple: **Deny ourselves and take up our cross daily** (23) – **TOUGH STUFF**: Say “no” to our desires **and** take all the sufferings that come our way for living as Christians.

2. **Jesus was Radically Changed – Transfigured:** <sup>29</sup> **And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different [no longer looking like Jesus], and His clothing [which was probably a dull color,] **became white and gleaming.** // During Jesus' whole life He looked only human but He showed His real identity to Peter, James, and John – *as His face and clothes radically changed before their eyes!***
3. **Heaven on Earth:** <sup>30</sup> **And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, <sup>31</sup> who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.**
- a. Moses: Called to **▶lead** the Israelites out of Egypt, **▶receive** God's Law, and **▶point** to the Messiah.
  - b. Elijah: Used by the LORD to **▶speak** against the false worship of Baal and **▶call** the people to repentance.
  - c. Appeared in Glory: What does that mean?
    - i. **Moses** died (Deu. 34:5) and **Elijah** was taken to heaven without dying (2Ki. 2:11).
    - ii. They left this life as believers in the Messiah *and continued to live with God in heaven* (Lk. 20:38).
    - iii. Believers will receive their glorified bodies when Jesus returns (1Jo. 3:2).
    - iv. Moses and Elijah appeared as believers with **“an excellent reputation”** (John 5:44) (BW, Friberg).  - d. Jesus' Departure (exodus): It included His suffering and death. Jesus said, **“Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour”** (Jn. 12:27).

4. **Awe:** <sup>32</sup> Now Peter and his companions had been overcome [*burdened, weigh downed*] with sleep; but when they were fully awake, they saw [Jesus'] glory and the two men standing with Him. <sup>33</sup> And as these [men] were leaving Him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tabernacles: one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah"-- not realizing what he was saying.
- They Saw: Jesus was changed – *transfigured*, and they *recognized* Moses and Elijah appearing in glory.
  - They Liked: The sight was awe-inspiring – *respect mixed with fear and wonder!*
  - They Wanted It to Continue: So, Peter proposed the three temporary shelters – *to extend the experience*.
5. **Clarification and Command:** <sup>34</sup> While [Peter] was saying this, a cloud formed and *began to overshadow them*; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!" // The cloud formed – *like a dense fog* – and resulted in fear.
- This is My Son, My Chosen One: Those words tell us the main point of the Season of Epiphany: **JESUS IS GOD!** Jesus **is** the greatest ✦teacher, ✦miracle-worker, and ✦example, **but He MUST BE GOD to remove the sins of the whole world!!**
  - Listen to Him: By God's grace we know WHO He is, **but it is also critical to LISTEN TO HIM** – to **gladly**: ✦hear Him, ✦think about His words, ✦understand those words, ✦believe them to be true, and ✦obey them in our daily lives!

6. **Inside Information for Sharing Later:** <sup>36</sup> **And when the voice [of God the Father] had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they [Peter, James, and John] kept silent, and reported to no one in those days any of the things which they had seen.** // The whole process may have been rapid – ✦the change, ✦the appearances, and ✦the voice, *but God accomplished His purposes:*
- Jesus: He was encouraged and ready to keep going – *no matter what!*
  - Disciples Then and Now: Since we are sure that Jesus is God, let us keep following Him – *no matter what!*

### **Conclusion:**

#### **This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday:**

- Divine Service at 11 & 7 (no meals)
- Let's ✦remember our sins and ✦focus on Jesus.

#### **The other Wednesdays in Lent:**

- Service at 11 & 7
- Meals at 12 & 6

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Jesus, **TYSM** for pushing through the horror of being **flogged** and **crucified** for our salvation! Please help us to ✦be fully devoted to You and ✦tell others about Your loving, difficult, and finished work for our salvation!

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