

The Transfiguration: Mark 9:2-8

In this passage, Jesus takes his closest disciples, Peter, James, and John, up a high mountain where he is transfigured (Gk. metamorphoomai) before them. This verb means "the act of giving outward expression to one's inner character..." (K. S. Wuest, Mark in the Greek New Testament for the English Reader, p.174). Normally, Jesus would have looked like any other man of his time and place. But now, from out of his inner being came an extraordinary light, which lit up his clothes to a "dazzling white" (v.3)—the blinding light of the Son of God.

Moses (representing the Law) and Elijah (representing the Prophets) appeared to the disciples, talking with Jesus at length about his impending departure (Luke 9:30). The disciples were told to "listen to him" (v.7). Moses had left a promise of the sending of "a prophet like me. You must listen to him" (Deuteronomy 18:15). Jesus was then proclaimed to the disciples as God's beloved Son by the voice from the cloud (v.7), just as at his baptism (Mark 1:11).

Do we remember just how special Jesus is, as the Son of God and as "the Prophet who was to come"? And do we keep on listening to him every day?

A prayer:

"Dear Lord, thank you for the way in which you demonstrated your Son's glory to the three disciples on the mountain as he was transfigured before them. May your Spirit help us to reflect even just a glimmer of his brightness to those around us."