The Transfiguration Mark 9:2-9
February 14, 202195-97-712*-331 #2150
*CW-S – "Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain"

See Your Savior's Glory!
I. The glory of God's beloved Son.
II. The glory of our gracious Savior.
III. The glory of eternal life in heaven.

Dear Christian friends,

As we climb this Mount of Transfiguration and see this **glorious sight** there's so much that's just UNKNOWN. We don't know on what ***"high mountain"*** this happened. WHERE were the other nine apostles? WHY did Jesus pick these three for this? **What** were they talking about as they climbed the mountain? God DOESN'T ANSWER those questions - and God DOESN'T OWE us answers either.

Matthew, Mark and Luke all record Jesus' transfiguration. God wants us to CLIMB this Mount of Transfiguration – take a **good look** around – and listen carefully to what's said. THEN we'll be ready for our **Lenten journey** to Holy Week and the cross.

So climb now this Mountain of Transfiguration and SEE YOUR SAVIOR'S GLORY! See 1)**the glory** of God's beloved Son, 2)the **glory** of our gracious Savior and 3)the **glory** of eternal life in heaven.

I. The glory of God's beloved Son.

The transfiguration takes us about **6-8 months** or so BEFORE Holy Week. Matthew, Mark and Luke all tie it to ANOTHER KEY EVENT in Jesus' life. ***"After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him and led them up a high mountain."***

We go back ***"six days"*** and we hear Jesus asking His disciples, ***"Who do people say I am?"*** After hearing some **good** but NOT GOOD ENOUGH answers Jesus bluntly asked the disciples, ***"But what about YOU? Who do YOU say I am?"*** That's when Peter gave that beautiful confession, ***"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*** With that clear we're told, ***"From that time on Jesus began to explain to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."***

"Six days" after that ***"Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain."*** At the time Jesus wanted ONLY these three to see Him in His glory. NOW Jesus wants all people to see this sight – the GLORY of God's beloved Son. ***"There He was transfigured in front of them. His clothes became radiant, dazzling white, whiter than anyone on earth could bleach them."***

Jesus' transfiguration is a miracle that GOES BEYOND a **full human** description or understanding. Matthew says Jesus' ***"face shone like the sun; His clothes became as white as the light."*** Luke puts it, ***"the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning."*** Jesus was giving these three disciples A GLIMPSE of the **glory** that always HAS BEEN and always WILL BE His as the ***"beloved Son"*** of God. Here was VISIBLE PROOF right before their **very eyes** that the man Jesus of Nazareth really is the **eternal, beloved** Son of God IN THE FLESH. They not only saw that with **their own eyes** – they also heard it with **their own ears**. ***"A cloud appeared and overshadowed them, and a voice came from the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to Him'"***

These three never forgot what they **saw up** on the Mount of Transfiguration. Decades later Peter wrote, ***"We were not following cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the powerful appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For***

He received honor and glory from God the Father, when the voice came to Him from within the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.' We heard this voice, …when we were with Him on the holy mountain." John echoed that, ***"We have seen His glory, the glory He has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."***

So climb the Mount of Transfiguration and see your Savior's glory - the **glory** of God's ***"beloved Son."*** Jesus is NOT JUST a great guy – a **wonderful** example – a **fantastic** teacher – a **prophet**. He is ***"Immanuel"*** – God Himself with us. We see that SO CLEARLY on this Mount of Transfiguration. We must also see that **so clearly** on that hill called Calvary. That bloody man on the **center cross** is the ***"beloved Son"*** of God.

II. The glory of your gracious Savior.

Peter wanted to PROLONG the moment and stay on the mountain. This sure beat anything the **world down below** could ever offer them! So Peter tells Jesus, ***"Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three tents: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."*** Mark explains, ***"He did not know what to say because they were terrified."***

"Terrified?" Matthew and Luke tell us, ***"As they entered the bright cloud they were afraid. When they heard (God the Father speak) they fell face down to the ground terrified."*** Terrified like the Christmas shepherds who were ***"terrified"*** when ***"the glory of the Lord shone round about them."***

This was both an AWESOME and a TERRIFYING sight. They were without a doubt in the VERY PRESENCE of God. Yet who were they to be in the **very presence** of God?! In the bright, dazzling holiness of God Almighty we see the UTTER UGLINESS and enormity of our sin and guilt. David wrote in Psalm 24, ***"Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart. He whose walk is blameless, who does what is right, who does his neighbor no wrong."*** Being there in the VERY PRESENCE of God Most High it was VERY CLEAR to Peter, James and John just HOW UNFIT and UNWORTHY they were to be there. They ***"were terrified"*** – God should really DAMN them to hell's eternal punishment.

Climb this Mount of Transfiguration – see Jesus **in His glory** – enter into that ***"bright cloud"*** of God the Father's presence – and take a GOOD LOOK – an HONEST look – at yourself – at your heart and **life**. See God **in His glory** – see yourself AS the HOLY GOD sees you. Be honest with yourself and you'll have no problem understanding how Peter, James and John could be ***"so frightened and terrified."***

And yet they wanted to **stay** there! Here's Jesus **in His glory**. Here they are STILL ALIVE and **seeing** all this. It was like – it WAS! – a little heaven on earth. But there will be no heaven on this earth. There can be no basking in **God's glory** UNLESS the ugly reality of our sin and guilt are FULLY and FINALLY **dealt with**.

"Suddenly when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus alone." The next thing you hear is they're ***"coming down the mountain."*** See the glory of your GRACIOUS Savior! Jesus ***"did not come (here) to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*** WHAT GRACE we've seen so far – Jesus humbly born the Babe of Bethlehem – Jesus living for us the **holy** and **perfect life** we owed God but never could live. WHAT AMAZING grace **we see** as we go through another Lenten season. The sights are SO FAMILIAR – the **Upper Room** – **Gethsemane** – the betrayal – the denials – the trials – the scourging – the ***"crown of thorns"*** – the cross – the blood – the **grave**. Jesus came down this mountain knowing **all that** was IN STORE for Him. He also knew the PURPOSE and END RESULT of it all. The purpose – to ***"take away the sin of the world"*** by His enduring the death and hell we sinners had coming. The end result – the TRIUMPH of Easter – Jesus risen from the dead – our forgiveness an ACCOMPLISHED FACT – eternal life in **heavenly glory** for all who believe in Him. What a GRACIOUS Savior! Because Jesus ***"humbled***

Himself and became obedient unto death – even death on a cross" – we are forgiven – reconciled with God – we can confidently look forward to **living forever** WITH Jesus in all His heavenly glory. See here…

III. The glory of eternal life in heaven.

"Elijah appeared to them together with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus." Luke tells us that both Moses and Elijah ***"appeared in glorious splendor."*** Moses had died **more** than 1,000 years before this. We heard in the OT reading how God had taken Elijah **straight** to heaven in that ***"chariot of fire."*** That was a good 700 plus years before this. Yet here they are – ALIVE – IN GLORY – talking with Jesus **in His glory**!

Climb this Mount of Transfiguration and see both the GRACE and POWER of your Savior! Death seems so COLD and FINAL to us. **On our own** we're helpless in the face of death. But not our Savior! He who so graciously paid for all our sins also so graciously shares with us **His Easter victory** over death and the grave. He who is ***"the Resurrection and the Life"*** has promised us that TRUSTING IN HIM our soul will immediately be with Him in heaven when we die. Jesus has also promised us that when He returns ***"in His glory"*** on the Last Day He will raise our dead bodies back to life – raise them ***"immortal, imperishable, incorruptible, transformed to be like His glorious body."*** Then with OUR OWN EYES we shall see Jesus in all His glory as we live with Him in that ***"new heaven and new earth, (where) there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, (where) God will have wiped every tear from our eyes and made everything new."*** That's the glory of the **eternal life** we have with Jesus as our GRACIOUS Savior.

And in the meantime, ***"Listen to Him!"*** Listen to your GRACIOUS Savior as He invites you, ***"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*** Listen as He reassures you, ***"Be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven you."*** Listen to Him promise you, ***"Lo, I am with you always. Never will I leave you or forsake you. My sheep listen to My voice and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of My hand."*** Listen to – take your GRACIOUS Savior up on His invitation, ***"Take, eat, drink, - My body – My blood – given/shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."*** Listen to your GRACIOUS Savior – SEE Him in **all His glory**! Amen.

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