



Sermon: Transfiguration
Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9
Date: March 19, 2023

-
1. **Sunday Summary:** What's happening in the transfiguration brings us back to Old Testament Israel and the pillar of cloud that led them through the desert. The transfiguration is a kind of recapitulation of that story (think about it... they're on a mountain, Moses is there, there's a cloud, and so on), only this time the Glory cloud that represented God, and was deadly to the Israelites in the Exodus story, begins emanating from Jesus. What this is telling us then, is that Jesus is the unsurpassable expression of God's being, and his presence. Jesus is the glory cloud in human form. The Glory was always there in Jesus, but this is where the disciples and the rest of us get to see it. And this all means that Jesus has become for us the ultimate ground of reality, our ultimate power, and ultimate source of truth. Applied, this means that Jesus' Word is always the thing that needs to govern our lives as his followers. We also talked about what Jesus came to do. And what he came to do is to bring God's very presence to live with us. The fact is the reason people would die in the Old Testament if they touched the glory cloud, or if they touched the mountain where God was dwelling (Sinai), is because we can't bear the weight of God's full glory. We are not holy enough. And that's what the transfiguration is all about... through Jesus and in Jesus God's glory can come among us again, and we can be changed by it.

 2. **Connecting Questions: (Interactive, life sharing, thought & feeling type stuff)**
 - a. Pastor Mike talked about how playing badminton against a far superior player was humbling. Talk about a similar experience where your ability, skill, beauty or intellect might have been dwarfed by someone else. What was that like? Have you ever had an experience of God that was like that? What did you do?

 - b. Jesus is the ground of reality, and that means his Word needs to govern our lives. Where in your life is it easiest to conform your life to Jesus's Word? Where is it hardest? What's confusing for you about trying to allow Jesus' Word to govern your life?

- c. Jesus shines his glory not to impress us or even to make us feel our own unholiness, but to save us, rescue us and put us on our feet again, and to give us his glory. Talk about a time that you've experienced Jesus' glory and grace helping you.

3. Truth Questions: (What does the Bible say?)

- a. Read Psalm 8 together. According to this passage what does it mean for our human vocation that God shares his glory with us? What are we being called to? 2nd Century Church Father, Irenaeus once said, that "the glory of God is a human being fully alive." What does that mean for how we're to live our lives?

4. Formation Questions: (Taking it further, How does the Truth change the way I live?)

- a. God shares his glory with us. What will that mean for how you live your life this week?

