

Sermon February 15, 2026
“Shine”
Matthew 17:1-9 & Exodus 24:12-18

The Transfiguration of Jesus

This passage from Matthew has special meaning for me. At the time when my mom passed away, I was reading a daily devotional, “Awake My Heart” by J. Sidlow Baxter. Dr Baxter said, “The Bible gives divinely guided and guarded teaching about life after death, not only stating it, but by *showing* it as in the sudden appearance of Moses and Elijah”. Two things – Moses and Elijah were recognized, and they knew what was going on here on earth. This gave me the assurance that there is life after death, and I will see my mom again.

(scripture readings)

Today, we gather to reflect upon one of the most magnificent and awe-inspiring events in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ – the Transfiguration. This moment, recorded in the Gospels, reveals the divine glory of Jesus and provides profound insights into His mission and our calling as His followers. Let us delve into the scripture readings from Matthew 17:1-9 and Exodus 24: 12-18 to uncover the depths of this sacred event.

(scripture readings)

Ascending the Mountain

Our journey begins in verse one, “Six days later (that is, six days after feeding the 5,000), Jesus took Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain by themselves to pray.” Mountains in the Bible often symbolize places of divine revelation. It was on Mount Sinai that Moses received the Ten Commandments, and it is on this unnamed mountain that the disciples would witness a revelation of Jesus' divine nature.

As Jesus prayed, something extraordinary happened. His appearance changed, and His clothes became dazzling white. This transformation, known as the Transfiguration, was a glimpse of His heavenly glory. The radiance of His face and garments was not merely a reflection of external light but the manifestation of His inner divine nature. This is reminiscent of Moses in Exodus 34:29, “Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As

The Presence of Moses and Elijah

During this glorious vision, two figures appeared alongside Jesus – Moses and Elijah. These two towering figures of the Old Testament represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively. Their presence signifies the fulfillment of God's promises and the continuity of His redemptive plan.

Moses, who led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and received the Law on Mount Sinai, symbolizes the covenant and the divine guidance given to God's people. Elijah, the great prophet, represents the prophetic tradition that called Israel back to faithfulness and foretold the coming of the Messiah.

Their conversation with Jesus, as recorded in Matthew's Gospel, centered on His impending "departure," or exodus, which He would accomplish in Jerusalem. This term "exodus" is rich in meaning. Just as Moses led the Israelites in the exodus from Egypt, Jesus would lead humanity in a new exodus – from the bondage of sin and death to the promised land of eternal life.

The Father's Affirmation

As the disciples gazed in wonder at this heavenly scene, a cloud enveloped them, and they heard the voice of God the Father saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to Him!" This divine declaration echoes the words spoken at Jesus' baptism as recorded in Matthew 3:13-17. It reads and reaffirms His identity as the beloved Son of God.

The Father's command to "listen to Him" carries profound implications. It calls us to heed the teachings of Jesus, to follow His example, and to trust in His redemptive work. In a world filled with countless voices and distractions, the Father's voice directs us to the one true source of life and salvation – Jesus Christ.

The Disciples' Response

Upon hearing the voice of God and witnessing the Transfiguration, the disciples were overwhelmed with fear and awe. Peter, in his characteristic impulsiveness, suggested building three shelters – one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. He desired to prolong this heavenly encounter, to bask in the glory of the moment.

However, the Transfiguration was not meant to be a permanent state, but a revelation meant to prepare the disciples for the journey ahead. They were to descend the mountain and continue their mission in the world, carrying the light of Christ with them.

Reflecting the Glory of Christ

The Transfiguration of Jesus holds profound significance for us as believers. It reminds us that Jesus is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being (Hebrews 1:3). In Him, we see the fullness of God's grace and truth. This divine radiance is not confined to the past but continues to shine in our lives today.

Just as Moses' face shone after encountering God's glory on Mount Sinai, we too are called to reflect the glory of Christ in our lives. The Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 3:18, "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

This transformation is a lifelong process. As we behold Christ through prayer, worship, and the study of His Word, we are gradually conformed to His likeness. Our thoughts, attitudes, and actions begin to reflect His love, grace, and truth. We become beacons of His light in a world darkened by sin and sorrow.

The Call to Shine

Dear friends, the Transfiguration reminds us that we are called to shine with the light of Christ. In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus declares, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Our lives, transformed by the grace of God, are meant to illuminate the darkness around us. We are called to be vessels of His love, instruments of His peace, and messengers of His truth. As we live out our faith, guided by the Holy Spirit, we bear witness to the transformative power of Christ's love.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Transfiguration of Jesus is a powerful reminder of His divine nature and the glory that awaits us in His presence. It calls us to listen to Him, to follow Him, and to reflect His light in our lives. As we descend from the mountaintop experiences of our faith, may we carry the radiance of Christ within us, shining brightly in a world in need of His love and grace.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the revelation of Your Son's glory in the Transfiguration. Help us to listen to Him, to follow Him faithfully, and to reflect His light in our lives. May we be transformed by Your Spirit, shining as beacons of hope and love in a world longing for Your presence. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.