

## The Transfiguration

Mark 9:2-9 (New International Version)

<sup>2</sup> After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.<sup>3</sup> His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

<sup>5</sup> Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup> (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

<sup>7</sup> Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

<sup>8</sup> Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.



Song: *Shine Jesus shine* <https://youtu.be/uaTwx0ehbvM>

We are all, I am sure, familiar with transformer toys that change from one thing to another with a few deft moves and twists. We are also probably familiar with the amazing ways in which our students learn and grow. We see them transforming almost before our eyes.

However, our reading this week is about the transfiguration of Jesus. Jesus certainly undergoes a change in which his glory is revealed to his close inner circle of disciples but he was Jesus, the son of God when he went up the mountain with the disciples and still Jesus, the son of God when he came down. The difference is that his glory has been revealed to the three disciples who accompanied him both through what they have seen and what they have heard and what they have felt.

What they saw seems simple enough: Jesus with Moses and Elijah. What this meant for the disciples is quite significant. Moses and Elijah are respectively associated with the law and the prophets. The Jewish people of Jesus' time were expecting Elijah to appear before the Messiah. Some had even speculated that Jesus might be Elijah.

They also saw Jesus undergoing a unique change in his appearance. He shone radiantly white, not just his face, but his very clothing was whiter than anything they had previously seen, this suggests that the light was coming from within Jesus; he was truly glorious.

What they heard added to the transfiguration of Jesus. A voice announcing: 'This is my Son who I love. Listen to him'. There is little to misunderstand here; a firm statement followed by the command: 'Listen to him'.

What the disciples felt when they saw and heard this awe inspiring transfiguration can probably be inferred by Peter's rather impetuous idea to build a shelter for each of the three figures. He simply did not know what to say and said the first thing that came to mind – something we have all done in moments of confusion. The disciples are also gradually becoming aware of the nature of Jesus. By appearing in such glory to them during the transfiguration he is making them aware of who he is and in doing so is also showing that the suffering and death he will endure in just a short time to come is something he has freely chosen.

The transfiguration is Christ in his glory. It shines hope for all and so, in awe, we listen to him.

#### Prayer

Jesus, thank you for exchanging your life for us; for suffering in our place and for loving us enough to endure the pain of the cross for us. We ask you to give us the strength to follow you and to transform our lives in your name. Amen