

# Transfiguration Sunday

February 17th, 2010

Grace, mercy and peace to you through Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Son of Man, our Suffering Servant and our Almighty God.

33 As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters-- one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.) 34 While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. 35 A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."

Introduction: "It's good to see you." "It's good to be here." Why? Is it because of some good friends here at St. Luke's? Is it good to be here because we have good music and songs today? Is it good to be here because we have an entertaining Sermon with interesting PowerPoint pictures? Why is it good to be here today? It is my hope and prayer that like Peter we all will say to our Savior, "Master, it is good for us to be here." Because today we see His Full Glory and today we listen to his Wonderful Word.

## **"Master, It Is Good For Us To Be Here!"**

### **1) We See the Total Picture of His Glory**

### **2) Today We Hear His Wonderful Word**

## **Today We See the Total Picture of His Glory**

A week before the Transfiguration of our Lord, Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you think I am?" Peter being bold and confident replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Peter gave a perfect answer but was without total understanding of those words. The transfiguration of our Lord was a time for revelation, a disclosure, and enlightenment. The Lord gave Peter, James and John the total picture of His glory so that we have all the pieces together when they viewed his suffering death and resurrection.

First, the total picture of His Person. In confirmation class it rolls off the tongue easy enough, when I ask, "Who is Jesus?" Jesus is God. But what does that mean? On that mountain Peter James and John saw Jesus walk with them, talk with them, get out of breath on the hike, sweat from the climb, eat, rest and finally pray. There can be no doubt to the conclusion that Jesus is a man. He needed physical nourishment and rest for his body and he needed spiritual nourishment for his soul. He prayed for strength for himself and his disciples. But on that mountain that day, when the disciples were tired out from the hike, Jesus was changed. He became bright! His face shone like the sun. His clothes became dazzling white, more than all the bleach in the world could bleach them. Jesus' whole person, face, body, clothes, all became like a bolt of lightning that just stays on permanently! There can be no doubt now that those disciples were seeing the full glory of the Son of God. Jesus wasn't just a man with special powers. Jesus is the Son of God.

Second, the total picture of His Mission. When the disciples woke up from their sleep, not only did they catch a glimpse of Jesus' full person, God and Man in one, they also saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus about "His Departure". Peter may have said he believed Jesus to be the CHRIST, but he had a completely different picture from Jesus, Moses and Elijah of what it meant to BE the Christ, You see every time that the suffering death and resurrection of the Christ came up in conversations with the disciples they refused to allow Jesus talk about it! They would interrupt him, question him and at least once stand up to Jesus and tell him, "We will not let it happen!" The mission of the Christ was and always has been to be the suffering servant! Even at the first promise of the Savior's coming God hinted at it when he said that the devil would strike his heel. Jesus Christ, our Savior had a mission to fulfill God's law for us and fulfill God's punishment on sin for us. Jesus Christ took our "departure". He died our death because of our sins. Jesus Christ fulfilled our requirements of obedience to God. He fulfilled all righteousness for us!

Thank the Lord! Praise be to God! We have the total picture of our Savior's glory! His person – God and Man and His Mission – fulfilled for us in obedience even willing obedience to die on the cross for us. Now when we remember, read and listen to the suffering and death of our Lord this Lent we will be prepared because

we have the total picture of His great glory. He is not just a man that is to be pitied. Instead he is the God man that has all power and authority to stop the injustice and unfair treatment yet willingly allows it to happen for us. We have the total picture so that when we see him crucified and buried we know that this was no surprise but instead a plan arranged, designed and carried out by our God since the beginning of time through the O.T. prophets – Jesus Christ suffered died and was buried for us! That is the total picture of our Lord's Glory.

Well maybe not complete though. Peter recognized how great it was to be standing in person with Moses and Elijah and hear them talking with Jesus in His glory, so he wanted to stay there and build some structures there for them. Again Peter was showing his confusion and misunderstanding of the mission but he also knew that what he saw was a great thing – it was a glimpse of the heavenly glory we will all have. Jesus doesn't scold him for wanting to stay in the presence of Jesus' glory with Moses and Elijah! In heaven we will be in the presence of the Lord and see him eye to eye, face to face as he truly is in all his glory –and not only Jesus but all the saints who have gone into heaven before us and who will meet us after we enter! Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, King David and King Solomon, Peter and Paul, John and all our loved ones in the Lord! What great conversations – great sheephead games! Great baseball games! But...But... the lesson we need to learn and remember is NOT Yet! Not Yet!

It's good for us to be here not only to see again the total picture of Jesus' glory but:

## **Today We Hear His Wonderful Word**

As the three disciples were trying to process all that they saw with their eyes, a cloud enveloped them on the mountaintop and then the voice of God the Father boomed from the cloud, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."

The answer to the three disciples' questions and wonder why they couldn't stay in the great glory of the Lord with Moses and Elijah was not yet, but also a word of direction for today – Listen to him. What tremendous advice from God to those disciples. The times ahead would be difficult for them. The one they loved and put all their trust in would be arrested as a common criminal, falsely accused and unfairly convicted by a kangaroo court in the middle of the night and then dishonorably executed like a common thief. All the disciples ran for fear, leaving their leader alone through it all. Questions ran through their minds, "Why? How come? What for? What's the point of it all? What a waste! Now what are we to do?" Or as the Emmaus disciples put it so bluntly,

NIV Luke 24:20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.

Neither the Emmaus disciples nor the rest of the disciples were able to follow God the Father's advice that he boomed down to them, 'LISTEN TO HIM.' Because of their failure to listen to Jesus' Words they suffered pain, sadness, sorrow, despair and one even suffered hopelessness over his sins and needlessly will suffer in hell forever. All that heartache and suffering happened, simply because they refused to listen to his wonderful words.

Today it is good for us to be here because we hear the Words of our Savior. His Words brings us forgiveness for our doubts and our hard headed sins of pride and wanting to go and do our own thing. His Words brings us forgiveness. His Words also bring us direction and advice that we might not needlessly suffer in this world but instead of confidence in life that we are heading in the right direction, making the right decisions and being a blessing to our loved ones and all those people in our life that the Lord has placed in our path. I'm reminded of that great Hymn "*What a friend we have in Jesus*" and that great verse that states, "*what needless pain we bear all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.*" Listen to him. Look again at the full picture of his person and his mission. See what he has accomplished for you. Now put what you believe and know into practice! Listen to his opinions about your life, your body, your soul, your words, your actions.

It is good to be here! Yes, because of the good friends present, yes, because of the good music and yes, because of the good PowerPoint and sermon but most importantly it is good to be here because we have see today the full picture of our Savior's glory and have listen to the Wonderful Word of our Savior. Amen.