



Sermon
Discussion
Guide

Sunday, February 26, 2023

Dazzling

*A Blessing for Transfiguration
Sunday*

Believe me, I know
how tempting it is
to remain inside this blessing,
to linger where everything
is dazzling
and clear.

We could build walls
around this blessing,
put a roof over it.
We could bring in
a table, chairs,
have the most amazing meals.
We could make a home.
We could stay.

But this blessing
is built for leaving.
This blessing
is made for coming down
the mountain.
This blessing
wants to be in motion,
to travel with you
as you return
to level ground.

It will seem strange
how quiet this blessing becomes
when it returns to earth.
It is not shy.
It is not afraid.

It simply knows
how to bide its time,
to watch and wait,
to discern and pray

until the moment comes
when it will reveal
everything it knows,
when it will shine forth
with all that it has seen,
when it will dazzle
with the unforgettable light
you have carried
all this way.

— Jan Richardson from [Circle of
Grace: A Book of Blessings for
the Seasons](#)

PORTRAITS OF A SAVIOUR

Glorious – Matthew 17:1-9

Read/Reflect

1. Read Matthew 17:1-9. Review the surrounding verses, especially 16:13-20; 16:21-28; 17:22-23. Why does Matthew place these incidents in this particular order?
2. Why are Moses and Elijah present in this transfiguration story? Think of the parallels between these two great Old Testament figures and Jesus. What are some of those comparisons? For example, what were the circumstances of each of their deaths (Deuteronomy 34; 2 Kings 2; also see Malachi 4:5).
3. Why is this incident witnessed by only 3 of the disciples? And why does Jesus tell the 3 disciples not to talk about this incident right away? What does that say about the purpose of this show of glory?

Explore

4. What impression are you left with after reading the Transfiguration of Jesus story?
 - Left me disappointed
 - Takes my breath away
 - Makes me eager for more glory
 - I am underwhelmed
5. Recall a mountain-top experience in your faith. What occurred? How long did it last? How did it end? What was the emotion associated with it? How did it effect your faith?
6. Like Peter, many of us say, “Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16). But have you ever had an experience in which God spoke assurance to you that Jesus is indeed God’s son in whom he is well-pleased (Matthew 17:5)? Has God ever said a similar thing to you: “You are my child, I am pleased with you!”
7. What words or experiences would you use to describe or express God’s glory? How do you reconcile the presence of God’s glory with the state of the world today?

Pray

- Bless each other as you celebrate God’s glory in the midst of hardship, disappointment, and brokenness.