February 11, 2024 **COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITY**

When we look at the scripture passage for this Sunday, St. Mark 9:2-9, it’s all about the Blessed Hope we have in the return of Jesus. It is also the account of the transfiguration of Jesus. But the transfiguration is a preview, a foretaste of the second coming of Jesus.

The transfiguration of Jesus is an important turning point in His ministry. The three gospels Matthew, Mark, and Luke record it. What is the purpose of the transfiguration? It was more than just Jesus showing that He was God in flesh. There is an important truth: He was trying to communicate to his disciples. In this message, let’s examine the main truth, and then look at three applications of this truth.

Our main thought will be the “Transfiguration”. It is a preview of the Second Coming of Jesus: The transfiguration is like a preview of a coming attraction, a literal attraction, the second coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus took Peter, James, and John up the mountain, and they were given a front-row seat to the preview of when Jesus returns in majesty and glory.

The three personal applications from the Transfiguration. Number one will be, when you see the glory of Jesus you will know who He really is: When Jesus was on the mountain, the Bible says He was transfigured. The Greek word is the verb “metamorphoo”. We get our word metamorphosis from it. It means “a change on the outside which comes from within.” When a caterpillar changes into a butterfly, metamorphosis has occurred. Jesus was changed from an ordinary looking human into a figure of light with brilliant beams radiating from his body. The reason His clothes became white, was from the light emanating from His body. I can just imagine the disciples rubbing their eyes, wondering if they were really seeing what they thought they were seeing.
In the Old Testament, God often revealed Himself through a blazing radiance that was called the “Shekinah” the glory of God. When Moses first dedicated the Tabernacle in the wilderness, a brilliant light and cloud filled the Tabernacle so that the priests couldn’t look at it. And again, when Solomon dedicated a Temple to God, the “Shekinah” the glory was revealed. The Bible says in 2 Chronicles 5:7, 14, “The priests then brought the ark of the Lord’s covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim…then the temple of the LORD was filled with a cloud, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God.

This is a very important event in Jesus’ life, because it confirms He was not merely a man. He was God in the flesh. For most of His 33 years of human existence, His human flesh obscured and veiled His Deity. But at this time, His true divine nature was revealed.

John never forgot this day. In John 1:14 he wrote, “And we beheld his glory; the glory of the only begotten of the Father.” Many years later Peter wrote about this in 2 Peter 1:16-18 “We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

When you see Jesus at His return, He won’t be the olive-skin, brown-haired human version who walked the dusty roads of Galilee. He will be the glorified Christ, as Peter saw Him. Some people claim that when they see Jesus they are going to run up and give Him a Holy Hug. No, we’ll all fall before Him. Isaiah in 6:5 was worshipping and saw the glory of the Lord and he fell to his face and said, “Woe is me, for I am a man of unclean lips.” Have you seen Jesus for who He really is? He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Our world is getting darker, and that only makes the brightness of the HOPE we have in Jesus Christ shiner brighter. When you shop in a fine jewelry store, the jeweler often places diamonds and jewels on a piece of dark velvet; it makes the diamonds seem brighter by being on the dark background. If you like to learn more, please join us in our worship on Sundays at 11:00 AM.

Peace!

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