

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Feb 23, 2020

The Jerusalem Road: What Happened on the Mountain

Pastor Hall 8am, 9:15, 10:30 Fest., Rev. Bezecny 10:30 Fam. Life

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share about personal events since you last met or about applying last week's message on "Free Indeed" (Paul & Silas/RJM Sunday)?
 - Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)
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- What is your idea of the ideal spiritual retreat?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture, Luke 9:28-36. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

²⁸ About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. ²⁹ As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰ Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. ³¹ They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. ³² Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

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 covered 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." ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- Background Info: In this Lenten season at Christ Church, we will be following Jesus' journey to the cross in Jerusalem in the Gospel of Luke. Here in chapter 9, Jesus had already been baptized, was tempted in the wilderness by the devil, and had a powerful beginning to his ministry of teaching, healing and other miracles among the public and as well as training and sending out his disciples.

In the paragraphs before today's reading, the identity of Jesus as the messiah made known and his anticipated death is also shared eight days prior to the Mount of Transfiguration experience.

- Jesus often went off alone by himself to pray. Why do you think he brought three disciples with him this time (vs. 28)?
- What do you believe the disciples learned from seeing Jesus transformed in verse 29? Why did Jesus look different at that time?
- How or why can holding such beliefs in the supernatural be difficult in today's world?
- Who were the additional people who joined them and what were they talking about (vs 30-31)? What is the purpose and significance of their being there?
- How and when did the disciples "get woke" to their presence? How do you explain their awkward response (vs 33)?
- In verses 34-36, how did God the Father endorse the identity and mission of Jesus that had already been shared?

Other Related Readings (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read out loud, Luke 3:21-23. How is this baptism experience similar to and different from the mount of transfiguration experience?
- How is the trinity shown to be present in Jesus' baptism?
- How is the fatherhood of Jesus revealed in verse 23 and why does it matter?
- Jesus' public ministry began at the baptism where his identity was shared (vs 23) and then quickly transitioned into temptation in the wilderness by the devil. What difficulties awaited Jesus after his identity was revealed at the Mount of Transfiguration?
- How is the difference of wording between "whom I love; with you I am well pleased" at the baptism and "whom I have chosen, listen to him" at the Mount of Transfiguration significant?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- Why is the identity of Christ foundational for our faith?
- How does heaven meet earthly reality for us in Jesus today?
- How does a person become awakened to the presence of Christ today?
- How do they stay awake in Christ?
- Since prayer preceded both the baptism of Jesus and the experience on the Mount of Transfiguration, how or when may we be spending time with God in prayer this week?
- Would you consider beginning the Lenten journey in community at the Tuesday Nights Together (5:30-7pm) or the Ash Wednesday services this week (7am and 7pm)?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- Why were the disciples afraid to tell people of what they had seen on the mountain?
- How or why are we sometimes afraid to share about our experiences with the risen Christ today?
- How can we overcome our fears about sharing our faith with others?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer