

“IT’S GOOD TO BE HERE!”

Mark 9:2-9

ONE MIRACULOUS MOMENT

And ... Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves; and he was transfigured before them...

It was a day like any other day, until ...

In the valley Jesus delivered his most famous sermon, but no one saw anything.

“Wow, this is great. Lord, it’s good to be here!”

Has it ever happened to you?

A TRANSFORMING VISION

And his garments became glistening, intensely white, as no fuller on earth could bleach them. (Mark 9:3)

From a Biblical Perspective:

The serpent said to Eve, “Did God say...?” And life is never the same.

God tells Noah to build an ark, and life is never the same.

A bush bursts into flames, but is not consumed, and life is never the same.

From a Contemporary Perspective:

You meet, fall in love, get married, and life is never the same.

You get a new job, move to a different city in a different state, and life is never the same.

You get a call from the adoption agency, and life is never the same.

You go into a worship service, feel the Spirit, and life is never the same.

PAYING ATTENTION

This is my beloved Son; listen to him. (Mark 9:7)

God didn’t say, “sometimes,” or “when it fits into your lifestyle.”

Above all other voices, listen to him.

When everything is loud and confusing, listen to him.

In the face of tremendous pressures and temptations, listen to him.

In the aftermath of failure and frustration, listen to him.

RECEIVING GUIDANCE FROM GOD

And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of man should have risen from the dead.

Missing God’s Presence.

We suffer from “spiritual mindlessness.”

Surely the Lord is in the place, and I was not aware of it.

What Guidance Is Not:

It’s not “Insider-information.”

It is not being passive.

Pursuing Guidance from God:

Be relentlessly responsive.

Listen for the Spirit’s voice through others.

Pray that someday, stumbling through a worship service or a serious situation, you might have the veil removed and shout, “Lord, it’s good to be here!”

Prayer Concerns: *Burney Biesel, Deborah Hendrix, Mac Kerr, Anne Miller, Vicki Page, Rachel Parker, Mildred Sentell, Joe Tidwell, Jr., Ray Billings, Cledus Creel, Betty Crenshaw, Rachel Cobb, Ed Gatlin, Martha Gibbs, Nancy Godsey, Kristi Jackson, Jeff Joyner, Joyce Kuhl, Robert Lee, Judy Malaquias, Margaret Moore, Macy Morgan, Taylor Murray, Florine Rickeman, Mary Elizabeth Roberts, Jerry Wayne Sims ...*

PASTORAL PRAYER

O God, after six days you have led us once again to this high mountain separated for just a moment from all that seeks to distract us from what you want us to see. It has been in front of us all week. It has been calling us every day. It has surrounded all that we have done, but we missed it. We look up for a moment now and stand in awe of your radiant glory. We don't know what to say. We don't know how to act. All we know is that it's good to be here! Speak to us. Bless us. Give us strength for the journey as we leave this place and go back into the world we left behind.

Bless those who have been taken from their own mountaintops and placed into unfamiliar surroundings. Bless those who are always taken for granted, and who are never thanked, and praised, and appreciated, as they ought to be. Bless those who have been hurt by life, those who have been wounded by the malice of their enemies, or by the faithlessness of their friends. Bless those who have been disappointed in something on which they had set their hearts. Bless those for whom life is lonely and empty, because someone they loved has been taken away. Bless those who are worried about those they love.

You know the needs of each one of us, and you know the secrets of our hearts. Help us to cast all our burdens upon you, certain that you care for us and knowing that you will give us strength for our journey. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

MARK 9:2-9

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves; and he was transfigured before them, and his garments became glistening, intensely white, as no fuller on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses; and they were talking to Jesus. And Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is well that we are here; let us make three booths, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." For he did not know what to say, for they were exceedingly afraid. And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." And suddenly looking around they no longer saw any one with them but Jesus only.

And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of man should have risen from the dead.

SERMON SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

In the Sanctuary:

March 5	<i>The Promise of Hope</i>	Genesis 9:8-17
March 12	<i>You're Never Too Old</i>	Genesis 17:1-16
March 19	Dr. J. Earheart-Brown President of MTS	10:40 a.m. only
March 26	<i>The Father's Heart</i>	John 3:14-21

On the Radio (1450 AM):

March 5	<i>The Lord's Prayer (Part 3)</i>	Matthew 6:11-13
March 12	<i>The Beatitudes (Part 1)</i>	Matthew 5:1-6
March 19	<i>The Beatitudes (Part 2)</i>	Matthew 5:7-8
March 26	<i>The Beatitudes (Part 3)</i>	Matthew 5:9-12