

**Goal: That the hearers might more readily listen to Jesus speaks to them today.**

“Hey, look at me! I’m God!” I used to think that’s what the transfiguration of Jesus was all about. I mean, this is the only time in all four Gospels that you really see Jesus in His divine glory. Even after His resurrection He still appears pretty much as a normal person. It’s only in this moment that heaven’s door is cracked open and we get a glimpse of Jesus displaying the glory of God. Then it’s gone, show’s over, and it’s back to Jesus preaching and teaching His way to the cross. But there’s a lot more is going on.

Peter, James and John watched as Jesus clothes became dazzling white. But that wasn’t all. They also saw two of the great Old Testament figures, Elijah and Moses, talking with Him. This was more than the disciples could process. *Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.”* Mark tells us, *“(Peter) did not know what to say, for they were terrified.” (Mark 9: 5 – 6)* That is so like Peter. Given the opportunity to open his mouth and put his foot right in. If this happened today, Peter probably would have asked Jesus if he could pose for a selfie so he could post it on Facebook or Instagram. *“Hey Jesus, is it OK if I take a pic? How about a boomerang of you three high-fiving?”*

If that wasn’t enough, a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: *“This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” (Mark 9: 7)* I don’t know about you, but if I heard a voice coming out of a cloud, I’d run. But these three disciples were in a state of shock. Seeing Jesus transfigured, and Moses and Elijah standing before them, then a voice from a cloud, it was a terrifying experience. *“Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.” (Mark 9: 8)*

That’s important. Moses and Elijah represent God’s Law and Prophets. After God announces that Jesus is His Son, Moses and Elijah disappear and now only Jesus remains. The Law and Prophets have served their purpose, and now it is Jesus, the fulfillment of both the Law and the Prophets, who stands before them. *“(Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them.” (Matthew 5: 19)* And the voice of God says listen to Him.

So, what does Jesus say? *“Take eat, this is My body...take drink...this is My blood, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”* He says of Himself, *“I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.”*

***(John 14: 6)*** He says, ***“I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me shall live even though he dies.”*** ***(John 11: 25)*** And He says, through His servants, ***“I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”*** ***“I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”*** ***(Matthew 28: 19)***

Don't listen to your heart. ***“For out of the heart come evil thoughts...(murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.”*** ***(Matthew 15: 19)*** If you listen to your heart, you're not listening to Jesus. You won't find the love of God in your heart, but you will find anger, lust, selfishness, and greed. Judas listened to his heart and he betrayed Jesus. David listened to his heart and he slept with Bathsheba and murdered her husband. Eve listened to her heart and she doubted God's Word and goodness.

***“Listen to God's beloved Son! Listen to Jesus!”*** ***(“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 anyone with them but Jesus only.”***

***(Mark 9: 7 – 8)*** You will never be certain that you're God's child if you listen to your heart. You will doubt whether your sins are truly forgiven if you listen to your heart. You'll be plagued on your deathbed, uncertain of your eternal future, if you listen to your heart. Listen to Jesus. Jesus speaks words of life. He is the Voice of the Father. He is your Forgiveness and your Salvation.

Are you listening to Jesus? The truth is most of us don't listen very well. As my grandmother reminded me, ***“God gave you 2 ears and 1 mouth. So, listen twice as often as you speak.”*** And that's why our Savior didn't stay up on the Mount of Transfiguration even though Peter wanted Him to. Jesus knew that not one of us could see the glory of heaven unless He first went to the cross to suffer for us the agony of hell. And He did. He died for you. He did everything that had to be done in order for you to live in heaven forever. And here, where His Word is proclaimed, where God opens your ears to listen here Christ is giving you everything He did for you.

So, listen to Jesus. Listen to Him as He assures you of His love and forgiveness. Listen to Him as He commands you to go and to love others. I heard a story about a 3-year-old girl who needed a blood transfusion. Her parents discovered that her 6-year-old brother was a perfect match, so they talked to him about it. They said, ***“If we take your blood and put it in your sister, it will make her better.”*** His eyes got really big as he took

it all in, and after sitting quietly for a minute he said, “OK, I’ll do it.” They took him to the hospital where his sister was, placed him on the gurney, and the technician stuck a needle in his arm to withdraw the blood. His parents held his hand and told him how proud they were of him and that he was a brave little man. The technician removed the needle and the boy asked, “Will I start to die right away?” Everyone was stunned. This little boy thought that giving his blood to his sister meant he would die, but he was willing to do it. Can you imagine a love like that?

You don’t have to imagine it. It’s real. This next week the world around us will tell what it thinks love looks like, but you’ve experienced the selfless true love of God as He gave his life for you. And he tells you to show that same selfless, sacrificial love to others. Listen to Him and let others see and hear from you this Valentine’s what true love is all about. (***“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13: 34 – 35)***)

Not only are we commanded to love others, but Jesus also commands us to make disciples. (***“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28: 19 – 20)***) James Montgomery Boyce in his book ***Here We Stand*** says, “What is wrong with evangelicals? The answer is that we have become worldly. We have abandoned the truths of the Bible and the historic theology of the church which expresses those truths, and we are trying to do the work of God by means of the world’s theology, the world’s methods, agenda instead.” For some reason, Jesus’ command to us to be disciple makers has been lost into the world’s theology and the world’s methods, meaning that we’ve fallen into the idea that as long as we are here, people can come if they are interested or not. That’s how businesses do it, right? But Jesus doesn’t say stand around and wait for people to come to you, He says, go out and make disciples, save souls, go, do it! So, if we are listening to Jesus we will go out to meet others, build relationships, walk with them, and help them to follow our Lord.

The transfiguration of Jesus is not just simply a moment in history where Jesus revealed Himself in glory showing that He is God. The transfiguration is a constant reminder to us to listen to Jesus. Listen to Him as He speaks to you words of love. Listen to Him as He speaks words of forgiveness. Listen to His as He commands you to love others and to make disciples of all, for that is why He came back down from that mountain to go to the cross for you and for the entire world. Amen.