

Discussion Questions Set #1

“About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus ... A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” (Luke 9:28-30, 35)
“When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him.” (Exodus 34:29-30)
“We were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 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.” (2 Peter 1:17-18)

In sermon this week, we talked about the interesting similarities between Jesus’ Transfiguration experience and Moses’ experience in receiving the commandment tablets.

1. In both passages, we see a connection between the people of God (Israel and the disciples) established through an individual (Moses and Jesus). What importance is there that these two men served as “connection points” between God and humanity? In what way are these two men similar? In what ways are they different?
2. Why might it be significant that Moses and Elijah – symbolizing the Law and the Prophets – gives way to the words of Jesus in this passage? What is the significance of God’s blessing of Jesus?
3. Both accounts suggest that an encounter with God caused physical changes in Moses and Jesus. Why do you think this occurs? What significance is there to the idea that change is inherent within an experience with God?
4. In 2 Peter 1:17-18, Peter points to this moment of Jesus’ life as being the prime example of his witness to God’s glory. Why do you think this account, and not perhaps a post-resurrection interaction with Jesus, stands out so greatly to Peter?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. (Luke 9:31)
“The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life” (Luke 9:21-22).
“It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you ... when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.” (John 16:7,13)

1. The word translated as “departure” in Luke 9:31 is actually the Greek word for exodus. Why might it be significant that these ideas are joined in this account? What might envisioning Jesus’ movement to Jerusalem as an exodus of sorts help us to see?
2. It would seem that Peter’s great desire was that Jesus would come and dwell in Jerusalem as a conquering king, yet Jesus continually discussed a departure that would occur in Jerusalem. Why do you think the disciples – and Peter in particular – were so set against Jesus departing?
3. What shifts did the earlier followers of Jesus have to make to move from a “dwell” mindset to a “departure” mindset?
4. Discuss this dwell/depart dynamic in light of the coming presence of the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions Set #3

“As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:51)

1. How does one follow Jesus in our world today as resolutely – as intentionally and strategically - as He followed the Father’s will to the cross? What does it look like to resolutely follow Jesus?
2. What does it involve for us to invite others to join in our resolute following of Jesus? How well does this translate to our culture?