

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – Fall 2024 – FBC

### The Life of Peter

#### Lesson #3 – “A Mountain Top Experience”

Sept 29/24

Texts: Mark 9:2-4, Luke 9: 28-36, Matthew 17: 5-7, II Peter 1:16-18.

In the Gospel of Mark there are 3 stories that specifically mention Jesus choosing to take Peter, James and John with him: Mk 5:37 – the healing of Jarius’s daughter, Mk 9:2 – the transfiguration and Mk 14:32-42 – Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Peter is clearly part of the “inner circle”.

1. “Transfiguration” by definition “is to be changed in form or appearance, a transformation” – the texts give us a vivid description.

In the next part of this class we want to identify all the details of this event, later we will talk about the possible meaning or “what they say/tell us about Jesus, Peter and the transfiguration itself.

2. The first phrases of the Mark 9 and Luke 9 passages set the scene and answer the basic questions as to **Who? Where? Why or at whose initiative? What are those answers?** (see p. 2).

3. Compare Mk 9:2-4 and Luke 9:28-30 by underlining or circling the descriptive words of this experience – what did the **disciples see, hear, feel**, etc. Then with a plus sign (+) note what Luke includes in vv 28-30 that are **NOT** in Mk 9:2-4.

4. Luke more than Mark uses **words/phrases that indicate time: “now”, “while”, “then”, etc.** Identify these words/phrases in **all** the verses from Luke (vv 28-36).

5. Mark, Luke and Matthew (p. 3) talk about the appearance of Moses and Elijah. What details do each of them give in regard to these 2 people?

6. Now look at Peter in this story: **at what point does he speak?** (see Mark, Luke and Matt passages). **What does he say?** (Perhaps Peter has in mind the Festival of Booths in which the Israelites remembered their desert wanderings by living in temporary shelters for a time each year.) **What editorial comment do both Mark and Luke make about Peter’s comments?**

7. What did the disciples actually experience (see, hear, feel, etc) in or during the transfiguration? (Mk 9:7-8, Luke 9:34-36 and Matt 17:5)

8. Where have we heard the words “**from heaven**” that are recounted here? (Matt 3:17 and Mark 1:11)

9. How does this “story” end according to Mark, Luke and Matthew?

10. Here are some “meaning-type” questions about this story:

- Jesus took the initiative for this event – why?
- what does this event represent in the life of Jesus? i.e. in comparison to his teaching, healing, suffering, etc?
- what is the significance of the appearance of Elijah and Moses? (and their participation?)
- what are we to make of Peter’s part in this story? Note at what point he says what he does.
- why does the transfiguration end the way it does (for Jesus)?
- what is significant about the way the event ends for the disciples?

11. In II Peter 1:16-18 the apostle writes about the transfiguration. What has Peter “done” with this dramatic experience?  
What meaning does Peter give it?

12. We did not experience the transfiguration as Peter did of course so what are we to do with this story?

13. And what are we to do with our own deep and dramatic experiences?

*For your own interest, you might want to read Matt 26:36-46 and note the parallels are there between this story and the story of the transfiguration?*

**Next week: “Intention vs Reality”**

## **Mark 9:2-4**

- <sup>2</sup>...Jesus took with him Peter, James and John
- and led them up a high mountain
- apart by themselves
- and He was transfigured before them
- <sup>3</sup> and His clothes became dazzling white
- such as no one on earth could bleach them
- <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them
- Elijah with Moses
- who were talking to Jesus
- <sup>5</sup> then Peter said to Jesus:
- "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here, let us make 3 dwellings, 1 for you, 1 for Moses and 1 for Elijah."
- <sup>6</sup> he did not know what to say
- for they were terrified.
- <sup>7</sup> then a cloud overshadowed them
- and from the cloud there came a voice:
- "this is my Son, the Beloved, 'listen to Him'"
- <sup>8</sup> suddenly when they looked around
- they saw no one with them any more
- but only Jesus

## **Luke 9:28-31**

- <sup>28</sup>... Jesus took with him Peter and John and James
- went up on the mountain to pray.
- <sup>29</sup>And while He was praying,
- the appearance of his face changed,
- His clothes became dazzling white.
- <sup>30</sup>Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to Him.
- <sup>31</sup>They appeared in glory
- and were speaking of His departure,
- which He was about to accomplish in Jerusalem

## **Verses 32-36**

- <sup>32</sup>Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep
- but since they had stayed away
- they saw His glory
- and the two men who stood with Him
- <sup>33</sup>Just as they were leaving Him,
- Peter said to Jesus,
- "Master, it is good for us to be here
- let us make 3 dwellings, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah"
- not knowing what he said
- <sup>34</sup>While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them;
- and they were terrified
- as they entered the cloud
- <sup>35</sup>Then from the cloud came a voice that said

- "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to Him!"
- <sup>36</sup>When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.
- and they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

### **Matthew 17:5-7**

- <sup>5</sup>While he (Peter) was still speaking,
- a bright cloud enveloped them
- and a voice from the cloud said
- "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him!"
- <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this,
- they fell facedown to the ground,
- terrified
- <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them.
- "Get up," He said.
- "Don't be afraid."
- <sup>8</sup>When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

### **II Peter 1:16-18**

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup>For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' <sup>18</sup>We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

### **Matthew 26:36-46 "Gethsemane"**

<sup>36</sup>Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup>He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup>Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

<sup>39</sup>Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

<sup>40</sup>Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. <sup>41</sup>"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." <sup>42</sup>He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." <sup>43</sup>When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup>So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. <sup>45</sup>Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup>Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"