

Year A - Second Sunday of Lent

Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus' face shone like the sun.



Jesus took Peter and the brothers James and John with him.

They went up on a very high mountain where they could be alone.

There in front of the disciples Jesus was completely changed.

His face was shining like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

All at once Moses and Elijah were there talking with Jesus.

So Peter said to him, "Lord, it is good for us to be here!

Let us make three shelters, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While Peter was still speaking, the shadow of a bright cloud passed over them.

From the cloud a voice said, "This is my own dear Son, and I am pleased with him.

Listen to what he says!"

When the disciples heard the voice, they were so afraid that they fell flat on the ground.

But Jesus came over and touched them. He said, "Get up and don't be afraid!"

When they opened their eyes, they saw only Jesus.

On their way down from the mountain, Jesus warned his disciples not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Son of Man had been raised from death.



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A sneak peak of what is to come



Introduction In the chapter before this Gospel, Jesus has told the disciples that he will suffer and die. This must have been really confusing for them! Here in this gospel we see that, just a few days later, Jesus has taken three of his closest disciples up a mountain to pray. This 'mountain' is a scripture 'clue' that something amazing is about to happen! And it does! Jesus is transfigured before their eyes! His face shines like the sun, and his clothes become white as light.

Message

- Today, we know the whole story. We know that Jesus suffered and died on the cross, then after three days he rose again! We remember the story of Mary Magdalene who saw Jesus shining like the sun when she went to the tomb on Easter Sunday morning!
- But, back at the time when the transfiguration happened, the disciples didn't really understand or have any idea what was going to happen. Yes, Jesus had told them that he would suffer and die, but they were living in the time before the story of Jesus death and resurrection had been written... it hadn't even happened yet!
- So, when Jesus was transfigured right in front of the disciples eyes, it was like a sneak peak of what he would be like after his resurrection!
- For us during Lent, this gospel is a sneak peak too. As we make a new beginning and journey with Jesus during Lent, we know that Jesus is with us in the easy times and in the hard times.
- The bright light of Jesus was given to us when we were baptised so that we can shine in our words and actions, and share God's love with the world around us.

Discussion

- Imagine what it would have been like to be there with the disciples and see Jesus transfigured!
- What would you have said if you had seen it?
- How do you know Jesus is shining on you?
- How can you shine the light of Jesus to others?

