

Seeing His Glory

Transfiguration Sunday – February 15, 2026

Matthew 17:1–9

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Sermon Theme

Christ is revealed in glory on the mountain, preparing the disciples to walk with Him toward the cross. We, too, glimpse His majesty to sustain us for the valleys ahead.

The Big Idea

The Transfiguration is not just a miracle story. It is a moment of preparation. Jesus reveals His glory to Peter, James, and John so they will have strength for the hard days that are coming. What they see on the mountain helps them endure what they will face in the valley.

What Happens in Matthew 17:1–9

- Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a high mountain.
- Jesus is transfigured before them, shining with divine glory.
- Moses and Elijah appear, speaking with Jesus.
- Peter suggests building three shelters to stay in the moment.
- A bright cloud surrounds them and God speaks from heaven.
- God declares Jesus as His beloved Son and commands, “Listen to Him.”
- The disciples fall in fear.
- Jesus touches them and says, “Don’t be afraid.”
- When they look up, only Jesus remains.

Why This Moment Matters

The disciples are confused and unsettled.
Jesus has just told them He will suffer and die.
Their idea of a powerful Messiah is falling apart.
On the mountain, God gives them what they need.
They see that Jesus is more than a teacher.
They glimpse His true identity and glory.
This experience does not remove the cross.
It prepares them to face it with faith.

Key Truths from the Passage

Jesus stands at the center of everything.

Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets. Their presence shows that all of Scripture points to Christ.

Spiritual experiences are meant to strengthen daily faith.

The disciples receive a glimpse of glory so they can keep walking when life grows hard.

God’s main instruction is simple and clear.

“Listen to Him.” Discipleship begins and ends with hearing and obeying Jesus.

Fear meets compassion in Christ.

Jesus does not shame the disciples for their fear. He touches them and reassures them.

The vision fades, but Jesus remains.

Mountaintop moments pass, but Christ stays with us in everyday life.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Why do you think Jesus chose only three disciples to witness this event?
2. What does the presence of Moses and Elijah teach us about Jesus?
3. How do we sometimes act like Peter, trying to hold on to spiritual highs?
4. What does it mean in practical terms to “listen to Him”?
5. Where in your life do you need to hear Jesus say, “Don’t be afraid”?
6. How have past experiences of God’s presence helped you through difficult seasons?

Application for Daily Life

- Faith is not built only on feelings but on trust in who Jesus is.
- God sometimes gives glimpses of His nearness to carry us through valleys.
- We don’t need constant mountaintop experiences to walk faithfully.
- The most important step is to keep listening to Christ.
- When fear rises, remember that Jesus still reaches out with grace.

A Simple Way to Live This Week

Take a few minutes each day to read a short passage of Scripture and ask one question:

What is Jesus saying to me, and how can I listen to Him today?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for revealing Your glory to Your disciples and for revealing Yourself to us. When life feels confusing or frightening, help us remember who You are. Teach us to listen to Your voice and to trust You on both the mountains and in the valleys. Touch our fears with Your grace and lead us forward in faith. Amen.

Scripture Connections

- Exodus 24:15–18 – God’s glory on the mountain
- Psalm 2:7 – God’s beloved Son
- Hebrews 1:1–3 – Jesus as the radiance of God’s glory
- 2 Peter 1:16–18 – Peter’s memory of the Transfiguration
- John 1:14 – The Word made flesh, full of glory

Takeaway Thought

God gives us glimpses of His glory not to escape life, but to strengthen us for it.