

February 11, 2018

Mark 9:1-9

See in a new way, and feel guilty

I feel I am all about “works”

Interpret this passage as don’t sit in “glory” and/or in prayer, get down the mountain

Luther and James dilemma:

- faith alone
- faith, without works, is dead

Works, without faith, is exhausting

Peter, James, John saw transfigured Jesus while in prayer on mountaintop (sacred)

“Glory” revealed after resurrection – when they “got it”, got who Jesus was/is

Early church chooses “deacons” to serve poor so apostles could, as Peter said, “devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.”

Their encounter with Jesus transformed, if not transfigured, them

Jesus was their example, in the valleys of life, as well as in mountaintop experiences

What was true then, is true today

Following Jesus can change us, transform us, even transfigure us

Dazzling bright? Maybe not.

Re-energized and re-formed through prayer and service to the Word?

Without a doubt

We are called to share and to serve

But, it must be grounded in prayer – both at home and here in community

As bad as “all talk, no action” is, just as bad is “all action, no talk”

This Sunday, Transfiguration Sunday, is the last Sunday in the Epiphany Season. Jesus has been revealed as the Anointed, the One long-awaited, the Christ.

We are about to enter the season of Lent; a season where we are encouraged to set aside time for prayer and reflection on the meaning of the Epiphany revelation.

While there is always much work to do to relieve the suffering in the world around us, I want to encourage you to take some time to go up the mountain, to sit in stillness, and to open yourselves to God’s presence, asking God to guide you in your life.

If you honestly and sincerely take the time to open yourself to God’s presence, you will be amazed not only by the renewal of your mind and body, but also by your own transformation. Amen