

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Transfiguration of Our Lord— February 19, 2023

*“But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Rise, and have no fear.’
And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.”*

– Matthew 17:7-8 –

Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a mountain with him. While they are up on the mountain, Jesus becomes transfigured before them. He appears to wearing dazzling white, and his face shines so brightly the other three men have to shield their eyes. And then Moses and Elijah appear alongside Jesus, revealing to the three disciples that Jesus reigns, not only on earth, but in heaven also. All of that would be frightening enough, but the story doesn’t end there! A cloud overshadows them, and a voice from the cloud speaks: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him” (Matt. 17:5b). The disciples are so afraid, they fall to the ground and bury their faces, much like a child trying to cover his or her face during a scary movie.

Fear can paralyze us. And the disciples would be facing more scary things. As they come down from the mountain, Jesus would head towards the cross at Calvary. They can’t stay up on the mountain. Although, we can’t blame the disciples for wanting to do so! In order for Christ to fulfill his mission on earth, he must come down from the mountain. So he tells his disciples to get up and not be afraid (v. 7). Jesus reminds his disciples that he is always with them. When the disciples looked up, they only saw Jesus (v.8). Jesus is the only one they heard.

Certainly we face times that are scary, too. There is only one person who can remove that kind of fear. Jesus came and touched his disciples. He spoke the Word. He removed the fear. When they looked up, they saw Jesus in his mercy and his comfort. We love to fantasize about Jesus in his glory, but we also need the Jesus who comes down from the mountain, who touches us, who takes away our fear and pain through his own fear and pain. Rise and have no fear.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for sending us Jesus to come down from the mountain and head towards the cross to save us from our sin. May we not be afraid to follow Jesus, and may we rely on him and his presence to give us comfort and peace. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Transfiguration of Our Lord— February 19, 2023

*“But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Rise, and have no fear.’
And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.”*

– Matthew 17:7-8 –

Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a mountain with him. While they are up on the mountain, Jesus becomes transfigured before them. He appears to wearing dazzling white, and his face shines so brightly the other three men have to shield their eyes. And then Moses and Elijah appear alongside Jesus, revealing to the three disciples that Jesus reigns, not only on earth, but in heaven also. All of that would be frightening enough, but the story doesn’t end there! A cloud overshadows them, and a voice from the cloud speaks: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him” (Matt. 17:5b). The disciples are so afraid, they fall to the ground and bury their faces, much like a child trying to cover his or her face during a scary movie.

Fear can paralyze us. And the disciples would be facing more scary things. As they come down from the mountain, Jesus would head towards the cross at Calvary. They can’t stay up on the mountain. Although, we can’t blame the disciples for wanting to do so! In order for Christ to fulfill his mission on earth, he must come down from the mountain. So he tells his disciples to get up and not be afraid (v. 7). Jesus reminds his disciples that he is always with them. When the disciples looked up, they only saw Jesus (v.8). Jesus is the only one they heard.

Certainly we face times that are scary, too. There is only one person who can remove that kind of fear. Jesus came and touched his disciples. He spoke the Word. He removed the fear. When they looked up, they saw Jesus in his mercy and his comfort. We love to fantasize about Jesus in his glory, but we also need the Jesus who comes down from the mountain, who touches us, who takes away our fear and pain through his own fear and pain. Rise and have no fear.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for sending us Jesus to come down from the mountain and head towards the cross to save us from our sin. May we not be afraid to follow Jesus, and may we rely on him and his presence to give us comfort and peace. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.