

Matthew 17:1-9 (ESV)

“[Jesus] was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared...Moses and Elijah, talking with Him.”

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today we celebrate an event that defies our comprehension. Today we celebrate the fact that the curtain was pulled back, that the veil was, for a moment lifted, and for Peter, James, and John, the awesome glory of the Morning Star dawned on them. And they saw His divine light. Together With Moses and Elijah, they all witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus. they came to know the majesty of God in a way they never had before. And because of it, whatever else they may have experienced, they certainly had every reason to rejoice without ceasing. And so do we.

I. I'd draw your attention in the first place to The verb that's used to describe our Savior's face when it was transfigured. It's a form of the word "lampo," which means to shine or give light. And this of course is where we get the English noun "lamp." Jesus' face lit up like the sun. And in this, we see the beauty of the hypostatic union on full display.

The majesty of His divine nature has been communicated to His human nature.

This isn't just some nice sounding, exercise in academic theology. None of the men standing on the mountain top that day would think this is abstract academic theology. I can assure you of that.

II. Christ's radiant body on the mount of transfiguration reveals what Adam was like before his fall into sin.

a. When Adam fell into the darkness of sin, he was completely stripped of his princely raiment of innocence and purity that adorned him. No longer did he possess the radiant glory God bestowed on him in body and soul. Sin divested him of it and defiled him.

And Adam and Eve became the only human beings who knew the majesty they had before and what they had become because of the darkness of sin, which had firmly rooted itself in their very nature. And the whole of mankind was plunged into the darkness of sin too.

And every one of us, if we're being honest, every one of us would say that the light of God's Law has shown us the darkness of sin in our own hearts, how our impure desires have defiled us from the inside out, whether we've acted on them or not.

The sinful passions of our flesh are dark and defiling, and even more so when contrasted with the holiness and purity of God's divine majesty. We all know it. And so did everyone who stood atop the mount of transfiguration. But that day, when they saw the metamorphosis of Jesus, they saw that the ancient darkness and defilement of sin in our nature has been driven away and cleansed by the holy light of His divinity. And as I said, they came to know the majesty of God in a way they never had before, in a way that showed them what all men in Him shall be in the future.

IV. Moses and Elijah looked on the transfigured Christ and could be glad that He fulfilled the mystery prophesied by them in the days of old. They had both ascended the holy mountain and had seen the divine glory of God beforehand, but now they had seen it in the fullness of time in His body, in our nature now purified and restored.

Peter, James, and John, by contrast, had seen the body of Jesus, but they hadn't yet seen the radiant splendor of His glory unveiled before them.

And so there they all were standing in the awesome glory of Christ's holy light—Moses and Elijah as princes of the Old Testament. Peter, James, and John—as princes of the New. And Christ the giver of both shone brightly as the One Who came not to receive glory from men, but to give us His own, to restore innocence and purity to the fallen and to banish the darkness of our ancient sinfulness.

This same One was pleased to take the shame of our sins upon Himself and die on the cross, and to be raised again for our justification, that all He is by nature, we would become by grace..

V. Dear ones, through your baptism, you've become mystically United with Jesus. Your sins have been washed away, you've been cleansed and illumined in Him, and the light of the world who was transfigured on the mountain has come into you.

And His very body, the same body that was metamorphosed before the holy Apostles and Prophets, the same body that was given into death on the cross and was raised again, this same body will be given to you today in the Lord's Supper. What does this mean for all of us who

receive this body and abide in Him, what does it mean for us but that we will share in the glory of His transfiguration?

VI. Believe me when I tell you then, that whatever you're going through, whatever struggles and suffering you've endured in years past and are enduring now, they will all be worth it.

- a. You might be thinking, "Well, Pastor, that's easy for you to say, but you don't know all that I've been through. You haven't seen the full extent of my suffering."
- b. But consider what Jesus suffered for you. Think of all he endured, the agony beyond all telling. Jesus thought that was worth it to have you and to bring you into His glory.

VII. Dear ones, the transfiguration of Christ reveals our future in Him—eternally basking in His glory and reigning with Him as the sons of light in the kingdom of God.

To the same Jesus Christ be all glory, honor, and dominion into the ages of ages. Amen.