**Matthew 17:1-9 (ESV)**

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. [2] And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. [3] And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. [4] And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." [5] He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." [6] When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. [7] But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." [8] And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. [9] And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

**“From One Glory To Another”**

Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. If you enjoy an orderly way of things, you might struggle over the Transfiguration. We would like to think it is Jesus’ baptism, earthly ministry, His suffering, death, AND THEN glorious resurrection. However, the Transfiguration messes up all this orderliness. Jesus shines in all glory and power on top of a mountain. Why reveal such glory when it leaves sinners in the dust? If there is such splendidness, why did Jesus not just snap His fingers and make everything right? You miss the point, when the Transfiguration is not about moving from one glory to another. God’s true glory is more than heavenly, but what dares to go to the cross.

Rather than the focus being on Jesus’ words and deeds, which were glorious toward others. Here at the Transfiguration, we simply have Jesus and His own glory. You could say He was “removing the sunglasses” of humility over His life. It was visible proof of what Peter confessed six days earlier saying, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matt 16:16). There were plenty of wonders on top of that mountain. We have Moses and Elijah a long with the cloud and voice from heaven. Yet, we should care about how it went with those disciples at the Transfiguration. Swept off into such glory needed an answer for them that only Jesus could give. The same Jesus of all glory gives all comfort so we have nothing to fear.

1. **There were no troubles only glory for the disciples up on the mountain.**
2. Peter, James and John were in for a surprise kind of like the power tower at Valley Fair that launches a person vertically up hundreds of feet in an instant.

* The Transfiguration made them quite content in seeing Jesus the way He was at that moment as they never saw Him before.
* Moses and Elijah, star players of the Old Testament, were even there talking with Jesus about His course of suffering and death.
* Peter had hoped to prolong that glory with tents built in a place where there appeared to be no troubles.
* This glory was what the disciples figured they could live with and far better than the troubles faced in life.

1. We like unhindered glory no less than those three disciples at the Transfiguration.

* Rather than being a surprise, glory is what we want to see from God who has all power and might.
* The shining Jesus satisfies our desire so life is not about troubles, but success, not about worries, but winning. It is about one glory after another.
* Glory like this is what we are content to live with, but Jesus without His cross brings no good for sinners.
* Only forgiveness ushers us rightly to live in glory and why Jesus said before the Transfiguration, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Matt 16:24).

1. **This glory on the mountain is what also gave the disciples something to fear.**
2. As with the power tower at Valley Fair as soon as you get the top, you come falling down just a fast and so it was at the Transfiguration.

* Peter had tried to manage what to do, but the voice from the cloud cut him off from buddying up to such glory.
* The Father confirmed what He had said of Jesus at His baptism only now to emphasize more importantly, “Listen to Him.”
* Specifically, it meant they could not cover up, dodge, or avoid how Jesus proclaimed the truth of His glory, which was love directed toward the cross.
* Of course, the glorious voice overpowered them for Peter, James, and John, “fell on their faces and were terrified.”

1. The glory of Jesus is good, but we need a better glory that is more than just for basking in.

* How much do our sins bear down on us when exposed to the light of God’s Law?
* Too often has death silenced and spoiled whatever outlooks we have on life for God alone is the creator.
* We fall on our faces before God’s unhindered glory because it fearfully stands out by its own authority.
* God’s glory is more than beauty, but carries a wealth of holiness that on our own we cannot handle to see as sinners.

1. **The disciples rose unafraid for another glory gave them comfort.**
2. No power tower of the Transfiguration was going to give salvation.

* Instead, they were to gloriously listen for, “Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Rise, and have no fear.’"
* Relief from hearing the Father’s voice came only by the word and care of His Son.
* The holiness of Jesus reached out not in the glory of being God, but in His humanity that came to save and comfort sinners.
* Everything glorious on the mountain went away and the disciples in a troubled world now became focused on Jesus for He was going to the cross.

1. From one glory to another, that is the point of The Transfiguration. Christ would reveal what hid in His cross as greater glory for us.

* Today we have full verification of who Jesus is, God in our flesh with all power.
* Yet, only by humiliation does Jesus put His power to use as Savior with the mightier love He gives in being the sacrifice of glory.
* As much as the experience was glorious, Peter later said, “And we have something more sure, the prophetic word…”
* The Transfiguration takes shape any time we “listen to Christ” for His Word removes sin, casts out fear to give faith, and lets any stand Holy upon Him.
* What Peter was unable to build, God has built as a tent of glory in His Church with the Lord’s Supper. Christ dwells within our troubled lives transforming us from one glory to another.

Today we wrap up the season of Christmas as one kind of glory that shines in a sinful world. Now Lent begins with another kind of glory that confronts our sin as it falls upon Christ for us all. This is better news, but it is on a different mountain with the cross. We already have the answer from the Transfiguration of what troubles of life and despairing sinners need. The Father says concerning His beloved Son, “Listen to him!” Mount Calvary holds terror too, but Christ by His sacrifice takes it away with words of forgiveness. The same Jesus of all glory gives all comfort so we have nothing to fear. Amen. Now the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, be with your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.