

Sunday February 14, 2021 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church

**Bible Study – Mark 9:2-9
Transfiguration Sunday
“But Only Jesus”**

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes). In pairs or groups of three, have participants share their response to the question, “When is the last time you experienced wonder or awe? Where were you?”

Mark 9:2-9 Context. This week’s reading reports the episode of the transfiguration of Jesus. It occurs at the mid-point of the gospel account, and is the starting point of Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem, from which there will be no turning back. The transfiguration is a classic theophany, i.e., revelation of God: Jesus’ appearance “changes” and his clothes appear dazzling. The scene takes place on “the mountain,” and is surrounded by the glory of Moses and Elijah, the greatest religious leaders of Israel who were thought to be still alive in God’s presence. Their mighty works were echoed in the deeds of Jesus: commanding the sea, reviving the dead, feeding the multitude, healing the sick, etc. Not only was Jesus worthy of their company, but as the voice from the cloud proclaims, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” But the disciples still didn’t understand – not even Peter, who six days before had confessed Jesus as the Messiah.

Read Mark 9:2-9

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn’t make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

Read Mark 9:2-9 again

Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

- Why do you think Moses and Elijah are part of this scene? How does their importance magnify the importance of Jesus as God’s Son?
- How is this passage connected to the first passage we explored in this series (baptism of Jesus)? What do both of these passages have in common? How do both stories reveal Jesus’ identity and mission? [In Jesus’ baptism, the reader learns of Jesus’ identity. In the transfiguration, Jesus’ identity and authority are affirmed.]
- The last few passages we have explored showed Jesus healing and casting out demons – meeting the needs of the people. In this passage, we, like Peter, James, and John, stand in awe of who Jesus is. How is Jesus’ healings and casting out of demons connected to the voice from the cloud

in verse 7? How is this command, to “listen to him!” also for disciples of Jesus today? When is the last time you stood in awe of Jesus? Where do you need Jesus to speak in your life?

- In the first couple of weeks, we were invited to reread the baptismal and Communion liturgies as resources for understanding our identity and mission as disciples. Another resource that helps us understand what we believe about God as disciples is the **Nicene Creed (you can google it)**. Read this creed as a group. What do you learn about Jesus? God? About being a disciple?
- Once again, we see Jesus tell the disciples not to share what they had seen (until later). How do those of us who live post-Resurrection tell about this Jesus? How is telling and sharing our faith a vital part of our discipleship?
- How do you feel called to grow as a disciple? How might this group help?

Closing Reflection Question

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

Prayer (10 minutes). Each person prays sharing their answer the following statements:

I ask God for....

I thank God for.....

Sending Forth (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

Covenant God, we stand in awe of your love. Your love seeks not punishment, but the reconciliation of the world. Give us the hands to serve and the words to proclaim your forgiving grace to all we encounter. Empower us to be disciples of Jesus Christ who help transform the world. **Amen**.

And now we pray The Lord’s Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power

and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.