

Sunday, February 19, 2023 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church

**Bible Study
Matthew 17:1-9**

“Transformation Sunday: Glimpses of the Kin-dom”

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes)

In groups of two or three, have participants respond to the question, “What is the hardest secret you’ve ever had to keep?”

Matthew 17:1-9, Context. This week's reading is the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus. The Transfiguration is a classic theophany, that is, a 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. Their mighty works were echoed in the deeds of Jesus: commanding the sea, reviving the dead, feeding the multitude, 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!”

Read Matthew 17:1-9

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 text?

Read Matthew 17:1-9 again -

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

Some reflection questions –

- Have you ever had a mountaintop experience? What was it like? How did it improve your relationship with God? With others?
- What does it mean that Jesus was “transfigured”? How might that have changed how the disciples viewed Jesus?
- Why might Peter’s reaction to Jesus’ transfiguration and the appearance of Elijah and Moses have been to make three dwellings?
- What might the addition of the statement to the affirmation given at Jesus’ baptism (“Listen to him!”) mean for these disciples? [This passage comes just following Peter’s confession and Jesus’ rebuke of Peter after Jesus announced he would be crucified. Though Peter is correct that

Jesus is the Messiah, Peter (like us) has much to learn about just how Jesus will go about being the Messiah.]

- Verse 8 notes that when the disciples looked up, there was no one except Jesus. How is that all they needed? How is that all we need?
- How can we make each Sunday worship experience a priority to help us grow as disciples and as a community?

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). Share prayer requests and respond appropriately.

Sending Forth (2 minutes). After all, have shared, end by praying the following or a similar prayer:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have spoken to the people of God through the law, through instructions, through the critique of the prophets, and through the psalmists. You have also spoken to us through the Son Jesus Christ. Empower us, re-create us, sanctify us into your image, so that all we do glorifies you. **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.