

Sermon Discussion Questions – April 28, 2024
“A Prophet Who Reveals” | Matthew 17:1-9

Opening question:

- Thinking of Simon’s opening illustration about Navy SEAL hell week—what is the hardest physical thing you’ve ever done? What helped you do it?

1. Jesus reveals God’s perspective on our path through trials

- What is the purpose of this event known as the Transfiguration—what does it accomplish? For Jesus? For his disciples? For us?
- What is one hard thing you’re facing right now? How does the Transfiguration (getting a glimpse of who Jesus really is) help you deal with this hard thing?
- Simon used the illustration of the Transfiguration being like God handing out eclipse glasses that enables you to see what you otherwise are unable to see—to see what is really happening. Help one another see some things that are really happening in the hard things each of you are facing.

2. Jesus reveals God’s perspective on our path to glory

- Share a time (if possible, recent) when you were overwhelmed by a sense of “this is good—I don’t want to leave.” When have you felt this way about Jesus? Perhaps he was a part of the experience you shared?
- Simon said “if you want to give a lot of Jesus, you have to receive a lot of Jesus.” What’s your reaction to this?
- Look at 2Peter 1.16-21. Peter recalls this event (the Transfiguration) and says “we have the prophetic word MORE FULLY confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place...”. He’s talking about the Bible. Do you view the Bible as a fuller way of knowing Jesus than witnessing the Transfiguration? Why or why not? How might Peter be able to say this?
- How much time are you spending in the Bible to KNOW and EXPERIENCE Jesus? What adjectives would you use to describe this time?
- Do any of you want to try Simon’s suggestion: for two weeks, go to bed 30 minutes earlier and wake up 30 minutes earlier and read one chapter of a gospel (and possibly a Psalm), asking God to show his beauty and goodness and his purpose for you today.
- For those who do, follow up with each other and talk about how this is going
- Jesus sends his disciples back into their lives and does the same for us—he essentially tells us “We can’t stay here”. Simon connected this with our current moment as a church. What are a couple ways God might be calling YOU and/or US as a community group to change in order to further his mission and purposes in our midst?