

Title: ENCOUNTERING THE GLORY OF GOD

Text: Mark 9:2-13

The Education of Peter

- Peter's Report Card

- Peter's Mid-Term Exam

Who is Jesus?

Will I follow Jesus?

Our Education

CONVERSATION STARTER

- What kind of evidence does it usually take for you to believe something? Talk about a time when someone made a claim that you found hard to believe at first, but were later convinced. What was it that eventually changed your mind?
- Read Mark 9:2-13. Why do you think Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus on the mountain? Why do you think Peter suggests that three tents be built? When God speaks from the cloud in verse 7, why do you think he exhorts the disciples to “listen” to Jesus? What do you think the disciples have missed that God wants them to understand? In verse 9, why does Jesus tell them not to tell anyone what they have seen? To whom do you think Jesus refers when he says, “Elijah has come” in verse 13? Why does he point out that “they did to him whatever they pleased”? What do you think that means?
- Read Exodus 24:12-18. These verses describe when the LORD gave the Law to Moses and established His covenant with Israel. Do you think it is significant that the Law was given on a mountain? What other important biblical events take place on a mountain? What are some similarities and differences between this passage and Mark 9:2-13? In light of these, what is Mark saying about who Jesus is and what he was sent to accomplish?
- Read the excerpt below. Would you, along with Lee, summarize the message of the Transfiguration primarily as one of hope? If so, what aspects of the passage convince you? If not, what do you think is the primary message?
- How has this passage impacted the way you view Jesus’ identity? Has it challenged or confirmed that identity? In what way? How does this passage inform our understanding of what Jesus was sent to do? How does Jesus’ revealed glory help to reframe Jesus’ earthly suffering? In turn, how does it reframe our own experiences of suffering?

EXCERPT FROM: *Transfiguration*

BY: Dorothy A. Lee

The transfiguration...conveys a profound message of hope. For all their misunderstanding, incoherence, confusion and fear, the three disciples on the mountain are given a vision of hope and joyful expectation. It is indeed “good” for them to be present at such a vision of the future, because it gives them the basis for their own proclamation of the good news. The transfiguration may overwhelm and even dismay them, but it also offers them hope. These same disciples will lose sight of that hope in the horror of the passion, but it will come to meet them again in the resurrection, offering a joyful outlook on the future, despite the inevitability of suffering and persecution. The palpable hope of the transfiguration will rise up after Easter to sustain and enliven them, as part of the core of their faith. The ...symbols of the transfiguration thus communicate the triumph of God’s future, enacted in Christ, even as he embarks on the path of suffering and death. They are a potent reminder that God’s last word in Christ is one of life and joy, whatever else may intervene.