

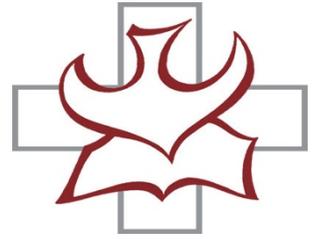
Jesus' Exodus Journey

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

2 Peter 1:16-21 Luke 9:28-36

March 3, 2019

Pastor Dave Bolte



One of the themes that is woven through the Gospels is that Jesus' life is pictured as an “**EXODUS**”. He is on a *salvation journey* that will set all people free from captivity to sin, guilt and death.

It started when Jesus was an infant; Joseph and Mary took the infant Jesus by night into Egypt to flee from King Herod's murderous plot to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem. Later, God would call His Son “*out of Egypt*”; just as He called His Old Testament “son” – the nation of Israel – *out of Egypt* centuries before.

The connection to the Exodus is reinforced in the *Transfiguration of Jesus*. As Jesus is shining in Heavenly glory – His face and clothes gleaming white as light and bright as the sun --- Moses and Elijah appear with Him. The glorified Old Testament prophets stand with Jesus and we are told they are talking about His “departure” – that word “departure” is the word *exodus*¹!

Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about His departure, which He was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem Luke 9:30-31

Using the great Old Testament salvation story as a reference, Jesus' work is described as an **Exodus**: a “*salvation journey*”.

Just as Moses led the Israelites out of slavery to the Egyptians through the Passover and Exodus; so now, in a greater way, Jesus

¹ Even without knowing Greek, you can see the similarity of the English word “exodus” with the Greek word ἔξοδος in Luke 9:31! The English word is simply *transliterated* from the Greek --- and both go back to the Old Testament “exodus” of the Israelites out of Egypt under Moses' leadership. Read the fascinating account of the Israelites' “salvation journey” to the promised Land in the Old Testament books of Exodus and Numbers!

will lead all people out of slavery to sin and death through His own Passover and Exodus: which is His death and resurrection!

Jesus Himself is the **Passover Lamb** Who shed His blood on the cross so that death “*passes over*” all people; His death and His resurrection is described as an “**EXODUS**”, His **salvation journey** through death and into life that sets all people free from sin and death.

That’s good news for **Moses, Elijah, and us**. Sin is terrible; and it is a powerful and destructive force in our lives. The guilt of our sin crushes us; the shame of our sin can be overwhelming. And there is no escape from the penalty of sin: D E A T H. Sin, guilt, and death hold us captive and make us slaves; like the Egyptians held the Israelites captive and made them slaves long ago.

Only in Christ and His Exodus are you set free. His death pays the penalty of your sin; when He died, He took your guilt and shame to the grave. In His resurrection from the dead, you are set free from slavery to sin and captivity to death. You are given a new life of faith and holiness. Like the Israelites escaping the slavery of the Egyptians as they followed Moses; so too you escape the slavery of sin and death as you follow Christ in faith.

You are no longer a slave to sin and temptation; you are not trapped in guilt, shame or death. In Christ you are set free! In Christ, your sins are forgiven and you are given the gift of the Holy Spirit! You have new life to live right now as the Lord Jesus leads you on a salvation journey to the promised land of Heaven! Jesus’ death and His resurrection is described as an “**EXODUS**”, His **salvation journey** through death that sets all people free from sin and death.

At the Transfiguration, God the Father confirms that Jesus is the Savior. Again, using Old Testament imagery, a cloud surrounds the disciples. A cloud in the Old Testament often meant the **presence and glory of God**. This cloud at the Transfiguration was the **presence and glory of God the Father**. God the Father speaks so that **all of us** hear:

"This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." Luke 9:35

The word “listen” is a *present imperative*; it means that we are to continue listening to Jesus *throughout our life*; we don’t stop listening to Jesus. We listen to Jesus because He has the Words of eternal life. Jesus has “good news” (*Gospel*) for us.

- † He has words of peace, hope, freedom, and salvation.
- † His parables teach us the truths of the Kingdom of God.
- † His miracles confirm that His Word is trustworthy and true
- † His words teach us how to live in His family.
- † His life teaches us to be holy in all we do and say.

Jesus speaks to you in **His Holy Word**... in the Bible!

You will never get to see Jesus shine in glory until you get to heaven. ***In this life***, there will be no cloud that surrounds you. You will not hear God the Father’s voice. Elijah and Moses will not appear to you. Jesus will not appear to you in brilliant Transfiguration light.

But rather, ***in this life***, Jesus has chosen to speak to you through the Holy Scriptures. The Bible is the voice of Jesus in your life. ***“Listen to Him”*** God the Father says. Listen and believe. Listen and obey.

**Jesus is the only begotten Son of the Father,
chosen to be the Savior of the World.
*That is why we listen to Him!***

Jesus has words that will change your eternity. He has words of freedom from fear, sin and death. He has words that guide, form, and shape your daily life. His Word gives you power, purpose and direction for daily life. Listen to Jesus as He speaks to you in the pages of Holy Scripture!

In fact, this is so important that if you don’t have a Bible, I will give you one for free after the service today. It is very important for you to have a Bible and start reading it. Start with one of the gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. If you don’t have a Bible, I will give you one for free after the service today.

Peter, James and John were the only three disciples to see the glory of Jesus in the Transfiguration. James dies shortly afterwards, the first

apostolic martyr (Acts 12:2). However, both Peter and John wrote about the Transfiguration in the New Testament.

John wrote:

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Peter wrote

We were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with Him on the sacred mountain. 2 Peter 1:16-18

The Transfiguration is an Epiphany! The Transfiguration reveals Jesus as the Son of God in full heavenly glory -- the Son of God that we must listen to everyday of our lives!

FINALLY, ONE OTHER THING.

In the Gospel of Luke, the Transfiguration is the major turning point in Jesus' life. After the Transfiguration, Jesus sets His face to Jerusalem, where He will *suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and He will be killed and on the third day be raised to life.* (Luke 9:22) The work of our salvation is not done in the bright, shining grandeur and glory of the Mt. of Transfiguration.

The work of our salvation is done in the dark shadows of suffering and death on a cross on Mt. Calvary.

Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday. Lent is our time to follow Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, and to the cross of Calvary. With humble hearts, we will follow His Exodus journey through death and into new life. We remember that "God of God and Light of Light and Very God of Very God" will suffer terribly and be put to death for our sins and on the third day He will rise from the dead. In His death and resurrection, you are set free from slavery to sin and captivity to death.

The cross is where Jesus really shines.

The cross is really His glory.

The cross is where your salvation was accomplished.
Amen!