

# Jesus' Exodus Journey

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

2 Peter 1:16-21    Luke 9:28-36

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Pastor Dave Bolte



One of the themes that is woven through the Gospels is that Jesus' life is pictured as an "**EXODUS**". The **Exodus** is the Old Testament story of God sending Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery to Egypt, through the Red Sea, to Mount Sinai, and ultimately to the Promised Land. Themes from that Old Testament Exodus story are *echoed* throughout Jesus' life.

Jesus is pictured as the "*New and Greater Moses*"; the **Deliverer** sent by God to lead "**New Israel**" on a **salvation journey** that will set all people free from captivity to sin, guilt and death, and lead us to the Promised Land of Heaven.

**Jesus' miracles** reflect the miracles of Moses on the Exodus journey:

- ⇒ As Moses provided water from a Rock for the Israelites to drink in the wilderness; *Jesus provides "Living Water" for all people to drink and live forever.* John 4
- ⇒ As Moses lifted up a snake on a pole to save the snake-bitten Israelites who would have died, *so too Jesus will be lifted up on a cross to save all sin-bitten people and to give them life.* John 3
- ⇒ Just as God worked through Moses to provide Manna for the Israelites to eat and live, *Jesus is now the Bread of Life that comes down from Heaven to give life to the world so that all can live.* John 6
- ⇒ Just as Moses was faithful in all of God's House as a servant, *Jesus is faithful in all of God's House as the Son of God.* Hebrews 3

Today, the Exodus theme is **highlighted** in a *spectacular manner* 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 Greek word *exodus*<sup>1</sup>!

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 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; even more than 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Even without knowing the Greek language, 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. You can read the fascinating account of the Israelites’ “*salvation journey*” to the Promised Land in the Old Testament books of Exodus and Numbers!

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 of Jesus**, God the Father confirms that Jesus is on an Exodus as the Savior of the world. Again, using Old Testament Exodus imagery, a cloud surrounds the disciples. A cloud in the Old Testament often meant the **presence and glory of God ...** like with the **Pillar of Cloud by day and the Pillar of Fire by night** that accompanied the Israelites on their Exodus. 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 Word forgives our sins and strengthens our faith
- † His life teaches us to be holy in all we do and say.

Jesus speaks to you in **His Holy Word...** in the Bible, and we are to **Listen!**

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!

#### **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 darkness of suffering and death on a cross on Mt. Calvary.**

Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday. Lent is our time to follow Jesus' Exodus 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.

The cross is your Exodus into the Promised Land of Heaven. Amen!