



ALL SAINTS  
PRESBYTERIAN

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

### FOR ALL SAINTS SMALL GROUPS

“What We Will Be” | Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt | February, 11, 2018

**Mark 8:22,31; 9:2-8, 31; 10:32-35, 46**

<sup>22</sup> And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him... <sup>31</sup> And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

<sup>9:2</sup> And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup> and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> And Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup> For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup> And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.” <sup>8</sup> And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only...

<sup>31</sup> He was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.”

<sup>10:32</sup> And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them...<sup>33</sup> saying, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. <sup>34</sup> And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.”

<sup>35</sup> And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.”

<sup>46</sup> And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside.

#### Intro Question

Tim began his homily with a story of how, in his 20s, he came to follow Christ. He walked into a church one day and asked the church secretary how to read the Bible. He says that at that time, he was ready to listen and that God was ready to speak. What might this anecdote foreshadow for us about our focus for the approaching Lenten season?

#### Background

In Mark’s account, we see Jesus three times trying to communicate his future death and resurrection to his disciples. All three times, the disciples fail to understand the true meaning of what he is saying by either rebuking Jesus, by asking who will be the greatest among them or by asking him to fulfill all their worldly desires. They are like the blind men referenced in the passage as well—their vision is blurry; their understanding lacking.

John, Peter, and James witnessed the transfiguration and were temporarily blinded by Christ’s radiance. During the transfiguration God gave one command, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.” While the disciples did not perceive the significance of this command, it is the key to our transfiguration.

Jesus was transfigured because we needed it. He did it for us. And its not just about seeing who Jesus is—it is about having the very life and presence of God shining forth through us. He was transfigured that we might be transfigured. While the disciples still did not understand after this divine encounter, we have the opportunity to follow God’s command to listen, and therefore to see, today and everyday.

Read Mark **8:22,31; 9:2-8, 31; 10:32-35, 46** aloud.

#### Discuss:

- 1.) Are we those who have seen Jesus? If so, how are we helping others to see him?
- 2.) Do we ask Jesus to bring us happiness or do we get on board with his agenda?
- 3.) Tim said that because of the transfiguration, our past doesn’t have to define who we are. In what ways have you let your past define you?
- 4.) In the Lenten season beginning this week, how will you attend your ear to hear Jesus speaking to you? What will you “throw off” that you may listen in order to see and know him better?

#### Conclusion/Application

Our transfiguration—the way Christ desires to conform us to his image—stands or fall with listening. God speaks to us now through his word and through other Christians.

Father, we ask that you would quiet our hearts and minds while opening our ears to hear and our eyes to see you. Help us to see past ourselves to Christ. Compel us to be still in this Lenten season that you might bring about our transfiguration and refine us that your radiance might shine through us. Amen.

By: Jenn Ripley