

**Intro:**

1. Jesus asked the question, “Who do the People say I am?” the response was that you some say you are John the Baptist, others Elijah, others a prophet.
2. Question still being asked today, “Who is Jesus Christ?”
  - a. Gallup Poll asked the question a while back, and said 70% thing that Jesus was not just another man; 42% said Jesus was God amongst men; 27 % said that Jesus was human but divinely called; 9 % said He was divine only in the sense that He embodied that which is best in humanity.
3. Jesus then made it personal, He asked the disciples, “Who do you think I am?” and that’s the question I want us to ask today. Who do we think Jesus is. Peter came to a conclusion, and I hope it’s the same one we do that Jesus is indeed the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
4. In our text, it has been 6 days since Peter’s confession, and what a confession it was, but the confession brought some confusion. You see, when Peter confessed Christ, Christ told Peter that the Son of Man will be betrayed and turned over to wicked men and die. That’s hard to match with Peter’s confession. So Peter, along with the others needed something more, something tangible, something they could see, and today they get it. Let’s read the account together (Mark 9:1-12)

**I. The Power of Experiencing Something over Just Knowing about it.**

1. Now Peter had already confessed that Jesus was the Messiah. I’m sure the others agreed. They had seen Jesus do things that no one else could do. They could see Him as being the Messiah, as being glorified, but as powerful as knowing the glory of Christ is, seeing it is quite another story.
2. **Sometimes, in order to have the full impact of knowing something, you have to experience it.**
  - a. For example, last summer going into pool. My wife said it was cold, kids said it was cold, I reasoned it out and it made sense that it was cold, and I concluded it was cold. If you would have asked me, I would have told you...it’s cold. But when I jumped into the pool, “it was cold quickly became...IT”S COLD!!!!”
  - b. Another example, People tell you that having a child will change your life. It is wonderful, you will see so much through your child...and you believe it, but when you have a Child of your own, you see it, and its on a whole new level. You can know, but to really know, you have to experience it.
3. Here, Peter knew that Jesus was the Messiah, **he had already confessed it, but now He experienced it.** He say Christ glorified. He saw it, He lived it, he experienced it. **And there is something life changing about an experience, especially an experience of God’s glory.**
  - a. In the same way, you have heard so many times that God is full of grace and mercy. That God loves you and that Christ died for us. **You’ve heard it, you know it, you may even believe it, but there is something so powerful, so life changing when you experience it.**
    - i. John Wesley was on a ship during storm and saw Moravians not afraid of dying. Asked Pastor about it, and the Pastor asked him if he knew Jesus. Wesley replied “I know He is the Savior of the world.” And the

pastor said, “Yes, but has He saved you?” He knew it, but didn’t experience it.

- ii. Then later he went to a worship service. Wesley had been involved in holy clubs, he had been ordained an Anglican Priest, had even went to America as a missionary to the Indians, but at Aldersgate he listened to the minister read from Martin Luther’s commentary on Romans, and he felt his heart strangely warmed, he said he felt that he indeed trust Christ as his Savior. He had known about it, but now he experienced that love. And what a difference it made in his life, and in the life of so many others.
4. That’s the power of experiencing Christ. **When you experience Christ in such a manner, you are never the same.**
    - a. And Peter would never forget seeing Christ glorified like this. In **2 Peter 1:16-18** he wrote, “*We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> 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.” <sup>18</sup> We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.*”
  5. You can’t argue that. **You can debate theology, but you can’t deny an experience.**
    - a. “It’s raining outside.” “I don’t believe you, the weather man said it wasn’t going to rain, it looked nice this morning. How do you know its raining.” Because I’m wet!!!
    - b. Or as the man in **John 9** who was born blind said after he experienced the power of Christ, when asked what he thought of Christ he said, “Whether He is a sinner or saint I do not know, this I do know...I was blind but now I see!”

## **II. Through this Experience of Christ Glory, the Disciples realized the Jesus was greater then they even imagined.**

1. All day Jesus had worn a dirty robe, He looked just like you and me, He looked if anything...well, normal. But now the disciples look at Him, and His clothes are dazzling white-so white that there was no way any bleach could do it. **These disciples were aloud a glimpse of the glory of Christ.**
2. And standing with Christ was Moses and Elijah-now we know that Moses represented the Law and Elijah was the greatest of the prophets, **but think about growing up in a Jewish household, and these were your two heroes.** And here is Jesus, standing with them.
  - a. This is superficial, but imagine you’re a baseball fan, and you see your batter standing next to Babe Ruth and Joe Dimaggio. And then to know that he is greater then them. You would say, “He’s better then I thought!” Well, Jesus is greater then Moses, He is greater then Elijah, and He is bigger and more glorious then Peter, James, and John thought.
3. **I wish we could all get a glimpse of this side of Jesus. Of His glory and power.**
  - a. We are going through the book of Revelation, and you see the glorified Christ. He is not simply meek and mild, but risen and powerful, exalted above all else.

- i. Billy Graham on Johnny Carson show, Johnny said, “Billy, if Jesus came back, I’d bet we’d do Him in again.” His response was, “Johnny, He is coming back, and nobody will do Him in.” You see, Jesus is glorified. He is bigger, and greater than we can even imagine.
  - b. **And the more you see, the more you stand in awe, and the more you realize that He is more than you first thought**, He is more than a man, He is the son of God. He is more than a friend, He is our Savior. He is more than just a Savior, He is the Lord almighty!!! And you fall down in worship.
4. That’s just what Peter, James, and John did. They fell down. Peter couldn’t keep his mouth shut, and a lot of folks want to make a big deal of what Peter said, but even the bible says that Peter didn’t know what he was saying.
5. **But then the voice came, and it confirmed the Identity of Christ. “This is My Son. Listen to Him.”** It’s hard for us to picture the full impact of seeing this. Seeing Jesus transfigured, standing with Moses and Elijah, and hearing the voice of God...and then just like that...it was over, and there stood Jesus alone, back in His old robe.

### III. What’s the Transfiguration Do for Us

1. **It let’s truly appreciate the humility of Christ**. When you realize how great Christ is, how powerful, when you see Him glorified...**the cross seems like the last place He should be**. But that is where He went.
  - a. This Wednesday we begin the Lent season, the journey to the cross.
2. **It strengthened the Disciples, just like our experiences with Christ strengthen us**.
  - a. They would eventually have to go back down the mountain.
    - i. **Wil Wineman hearing his call and not being called to a church**.
3. **It encouraged Jesus**. You see, in Luke’s account, *Luke tells us what Jesus was discussing with Moses and Elijah, and He was discussing His death*. As we go through lent, we are going to find the road to the cross was not an easy one. The glory of Christ will be exchanged for the shame of the cross. But He is not on the cross any more. He is exalted, and just as Peter, James, and John saw Him, we shall one day see Him face to face in all of His glory.

### Conclusion:

1. So who do you think Jesus is? I want to close this morning by sharing with you one of the greatest descriptions of Christ I have ever heard. **I’m not the best one to read this to you, but its entitled “Jesus as King” and it was spoken by a black preacher by the name of Dr. S.M. Lockridge from Dallas, TX.**