

## TRANSFIGURATION Sunday

### Luke 9:28-36

<sup>28</sup> About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray.

<sup>29</sup> As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

<sup>30</sup> Two men, Moses and Elijah,

<sup>31</sup> appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

<sup>32</sup> Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

<sup>33</sup> As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters -- one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.)

<sup>34</sup> While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.

<sup>35</sup> A voice came from the cloud, saying, "**This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.**"

<sup>36</sup> When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen. (NIV)

Please take out your Bible and follow along with me. Please turn to Luke 9.

INTRO - My Christian friends, I have had struggles this year again with Confirmation. What worked in past doesn't seem to work. I've changed what I teach, and the way I teach, but still some don't seem to listen, some bored, some seem not to want to be in class. Some, but not all. I wonder about attitudes at times. But, I also wonder about MY teaching style. Maybe in a day of TV, in a time of computers and video games with information instantly on demand, perhaps my teaching is old fashioned. I want to get through to the youth. I genuinely care about them, and I believe what God says about Himself and His love for us is the most important knowledge and faith in the world. I want them to have this knowledge. Sometimes I wish I could do some multi media presentation that might catch their attention and fill their hearts and minds with the word of God and faith in Jesus. I want them to hear the love of God. But, sometimes I wonder if they are listening.

I. Jesus had a problem with people not listening, even his disciples.

A. Please look with me at Luke 9.

1. Let's start at verse 20

A. This is Luke's account of Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ.

B. *20 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God." 21 Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. 22 And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."*

C. This sounds good enough, but then Matthew tells us what happened after this, Peter said, '**Never Lord.**'

1. Peter heard Jesus, sort of, but he didn't like what he heard.

2. So rather than listening, understanding, and believing Jesus, Peter rejected it.

2. So, as the disciples are not listening you get today's account of God's actions in Jesus' life.

A. If ever there a spectacular event, something to meet or surpass our was a Multimedia presentations today, this was it.

1. Jesus' face and clothes gleamed white and bright.

2. Moses and Elijah walked with Jesus teaching him about his coming death..

3. A cloud surrounded the disciples.

4. God the Father spoke from the cloud, '**This is my son, whom I have chosen, Listen to him.**'

B. What God wanted to get across to the hearts and minds of the disciples was so important he went to extremes to impress them.

3. So, did they listen? Look now at verses 43 and following. *43 And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples, 44 "LISTEN carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men." 45 But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.*

4. Even after the transfiguration, this spectacular display of God's power and glory, the disciples didn't listen. Can you believe that?

B. You know, I told you about struggles with my teaching in Confirmation, but, I want you to think if this is just the kids.

1. God says, '**Don't store up for yourself treasures on earth, but store up treasures in heaven.**' How often do we forget and try to amass earthly things, that in the end even cause stress as we try to care for the?

2. God says, '**Love one another as I have loved you.**' But, not only do we have trouble loving those outside the church, Christians even have trouble loving other Christians.

3. God says, '**nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** But, it is not uncommon when things in life go badly for people to ask, 'Does God really love me?'

4. I could go on and on in areas where even we Christians know what God says, but we have trouble accepting, or believing, or doing it.

5. Do you think only some middle school children have trouble listening, or do you think even adults, even Christians, **EVEN YOU AND I** have trouble listening to and believing God?

II. We just had the Super Bowl. Because more people watch that show than any other, more money is spent on commercials to catch your attention than anywhere else. Advertisers want people to listen.

A. Did you hear what today's lesson says God wants us to do?

1. "**This is my Son, whom I have chosen; LISTEN to him.**"

2. God wants us to listen to His Son.

B. Let me tell you what listening means.

1. It doesn't really mean God needs to do the work to get our attention.

2. When God calls us to listen he wants us to pay attention. That means he wants us to understand it is God talking, to pay attention, to take His word seriously and study it.

3. When God calls us to listen he wants us to believe it. He wants us to trust that what he says is true, and truth matters.

4. When God calls us to listen he wants us to live according to what He says. If God tells us what to do, He doesn't want us deciding to do something else anyway.

C. God calls us to pay attention, and study, and believe, and live according to His Word, not according to the whim of the moment.

III. Let me tell you about my second grade Sunday School teacher. His name was Glenmore Carr. He was somewhat different. He wasn't married. He took his teaching seriously. I remember trips to the mountain our class took with him. I remember he wrote tests in Sunday School. I remember special gifts for class members when memory was done right. Now, Glenmore didn't have to do all this. But, he believed what he was teaching was important. He wanted us to understand, and believe, and follow the word of God. He went the extra step to help us to listen to God.

A. God wants you to know His love and forgiveness in Jesus so much that he went the extra step.

1. For the disciples today, he caused Jesus' transformation we call the Transfiguration. They didn't listen as they should that day, but later they remembered.
  2. He went even further. God didn't just say he loved us, He sent His Son who came to earth to save us. Jesus suffered for our sins, died on the cross, and rose again. If something could get our attention, that should.
- B. God continues to do more than just speak today to get us to listen, and believe, and follow.
1. Today, he doesn't just say he loves us, he gives us the very body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins. We may take it for granted, but this is amazing love.
  2. Jesus answers prayers, and the prayers I have seen answered lately are amazing. Ask me.
  3. God gives us family, and homes, and friends, and a church. He doesn't just say he loves it, he goes all out, so we will listen and believe and trust His love in our lives.

CONCLUSION - I may worry about getting through to my confirmation class. God wants us to listen, to study, to believe, to follow. So, he has gone out of his way to show His love. He sent His son! Are YOU listening?