

RECAP

As you reflect on the end of last week's sermon series, what stood out and challenged you about Jesus' Kingdom? What were some of the practical ways your group implemented the Kingdom message?

IDEA 1

This scene in *the mount of transfiguration* is a transcendent moment of beholding for Peter, James and John - and it remains that for us. His Deity was confirmed. We confidently worship - the King of Glory, Fulfillment of the Law and Prophets, Creator, Eternal God.

What do you believe was the significance about the three disciples seeing Jesus' glory?

How does the story of Jesus' transfiguration compare to his crucifixion?

What does the contrast stir in you?

What would have been your reaction to this scene had you'd been one of the disciples?

IDEA 2

Christ walked this earth - he experienced the emotions, the need for encouragement and affirmation, the power of community, the importance of friends that have lived it. He gets it - He understands - and with this His wisdom and comfort are accessible.

Why do you think Jesus received the same type of affirmation in his transfiguration as he did in his baptism?

How might have the presence of Jesus' closest friends sustained Him in His Journey toward the cross?

What about Jesus humanity strikes you in this story?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Let's not be quick to leave the mountain - let's not neglect worshipping together and moments that leave us reflecting the light of Christ. Let's not move on from our mountain experiences with the transfigured Christ - because in these moments - we, like Peter, James and John are transfigured ourselves. Because in these moments we are sustained.....In His humanity Jesus *also* needs the sustaining encouragement from the Father, old friends and new - and so do each of us.

With your group discuss these questions first about mountain top experiences and the affirmation and encouraging presence of God and close friends:

- **When was your last Mountain top experience?**
- **What steps do you need to take to make room for your next?**
- **When did you last feel the affirmation of Father God?**
- **How have you experienced divine council and encouragement from friends?**

APPLICATION

The Practice of Being Known

Consider implementing this *meditative practice* this week:

Based on the story of Jesus' transfiguration and baptism, find a quiet place where you will not be distracted or interrupted. Allow yourself to be in a comfortable posture, with your eyes closed. Take a deep breath and begin to imagine yourself in a physical environment that is peaceful and calm. Allow yourself, now, in your imagination, to take a few moments to be aware of your surroundings, simply taking in what you sense visually, tactilely, and auditorially. Next, allow yourself to sense God's presence and to speak this over you:

"You are my son/daughter, and I do so love you. I am so pleased with you and that you are on the earth."

Sense, if you can, God looking you directly in the eyes as he says these words. Do not turn away from his gaze. Do not resist his voice. Allow yourself to be in his presence for several minutes. I invite you to practice this meditation—it may take only a few minutes—each day this week.