



Sermon Notes

Term – Autumn Term

Series – Gospel of Mark

Gathering & Date – 2nd December 2018

Title – We get to see Jesus!

Preacher – Neil Shepherd

Reading – Mark 9: 2-13

Main message of this talk in one sentence: When we ask the question ‘can we see Jesus?’ The transfiguration story tells us the answer is ‘Yes’

Main points –

We started by thinking about what the highest mountain or place we had climbed and recognised that the disciples we on a similar expedition with Jesus.

In John 12 we read that:

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. ‘Sir,’ they said, ‘we would like to see Jesus.’ ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.’

In short, the answer to this question is YES! If we want to see Jesus, the transfiguration story reminds us that this is possible.

The story gives us a couple of pointers:

1. The disciples were afraid – this is OK!
2. The disciples tried to build tents to contain this experience. The tents seem random until the remember that for the Israelites, the understand that God lives in a tent before the temple was built.
3. In the transfiguration, we see that in Jesus, the law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah) are completed. They are both present in this vision of Jesus glorified.
4. The encounter left the disciples with question – this is also OK! Talk to God about these questions because of the encounter rather than letting them be a hindrance.

And finally, in the encounter with Jesus, God the Father repeats the phrase that this is His beloved Son but this time he also encourages the disciples to listen to God. In an encounter with Jesus, we hear the voice of God so be prepared to listen. What is he saying to you? It will either be about you and your identity or about what he is calling you to do. Hear what he is saying and write it down as well as sharing it with someone you trust.

In short thought, my encouragement to you this Advent is to make time and space to encounter Jesus afresh both alone as well as in your groups.

For further thought and prayer –

1. What is the highest thing you have climb?
2. What does it mean to see Jesus?
3. Re-read the passage and ask if there are any questions that it raises?
4. If you were one of the other disciples, how would you feel knowing that Jesus has taken three of them away? Do we sometimes feel like that with others?
5. The disciples wanted to build tents in honour of what they had seen. Why?
6. In your answers to the previous question, can you think of any ways in which we might build modern day tents today?
7. The disciples were fearful in the presence of Jesus, do we recognise that emotion when we come to spend time with him? Why?
8. What other emotions do we feel when we prepare to be with God? Are they right emotions or is there anything we need to confess to God in recognising these emotions?
9. Give space and time in your group for people to individual meet with Jesus. Invite the Holy Spirit to come and be present and then wait.
10. What was God saying to you in the waiting? Was it a word of encouragement for you or for somebody else? Remember that God is always specific so if you don't understand ask Him to clarify the word for you.