**Sermon Notes**

**“The Transfiguration”**

Mark 9:1–13 (NIV)

1 And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.” 2 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. 3 His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. 4 And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 5 Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” 6 (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) 7 Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” 8 Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. 9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. 10 They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what “rising from the dead” meant. 11 And they asked him, “Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?” 12 Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected? 13 But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him.”

**Lessons from the Text**

1. Jesus tends to reveal himself within the context of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 18:20)
2. Times of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can be revelatory.
3. Mountaintops are a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ not an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Mark 9:14-ff
1. Jesus’ glory will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* 1 Corinthians 15:20–23
1. Jesus’ glory can be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18)
1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ demands a response.

**Questions for discussion:**

1. What insight from the message struck you in an especially personal way?

2. What has been your experience participating in spiritual retreats? Do you think they are necessary for spiritual growth and vibrancy? Why or why not?

3. Both Moses and Elijah spoke with God on top of a mountain. Can you find points of comparison and of contrast between Moses on Sinai in Exodus 24 and Elijah on Horeb (= Sinai) in 1 Kings 19? How do these passages relate to the transfiguration passage?

4. Read 2 Peter 1:16–17. What was the significance to Peter of the transfiguration? How might the transfiguration experience have led John to write the words of John 1:14?

5. Share a “mountaintop” experience with God in your life. What was its impact to your faith?

6. What are ways we can “contemplate the Lord’s glory”? (2 Corinthians 3:18)

7. How would you use Mark 9:1-13 and Hebrews 3:1-6 in trying to show someone that Jesus was more than just a good teacher or just another religious prophet?