

SERMON NOTES 15 February 2026

Sunnyside Church

Questions for Discussion

Read Matthew 17:1-9

1. Share any mountain top experiences you you may have had, both physical and spiritual mountains.
2. Why do you think that Moses and Elijah appeared and not Samuel and David?
3. Peter, James and John wanted to build 3 booths for Moses, Elijah and Jesus. In church at the top of Mount Tabor (one of the possible sites of the Transfiguration) there are 3 booths today . Doesn't this contradict what Jesus said in v.4?
4. Matthew 16:21 Jesus warns his disciples about the coming betrayal and death. Why did he tell Peter, James and John not to tell anyone about the Transfiguration until after the resurrection?
5. How can we use our mountain top experiences when we come to the valley below?
6. As we approach the season of Lent what does the Transfiguration say to you in our preparations for Easter?

A Prayer

Father in heaven, whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain, and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem: give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross that in the world to come we may see him as he is; who is alive and reigns with you. In the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God; now and for ever. Amen.

Main points of the sermon

I expect that most of you have at sometime been up a mountain and enjoyed the experience of being at the top. We can't stay at the top of the mountain but the experience can be a great asset to us as we live day by day in the valley below. Peter, James and John had just heard Jesus predicting his suffering and death, then Jesus took them to the top of the mountain where they had a great experience of the Transfiguration. They were terrified but were reassured by the presence of Moses and Elijah and the voice from heaven affirming Jesus.

They came down from the mountain. Jesus told them not to say anything about their experience until after Jesus resurrection when the meaning would become clear.

Many of us would say we have had a mountain top experience. This experience has strengthened us in our daily living in the valley below

John Kirkby