

Growth Group Questions

Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, 2024

Introduction

This Sunday marks the end of the Epiphany season. We've seen Jesus preach and call disciples to himself to witness for him. We saw him cast out demons and perform great miracles. We saw him worshiped by Jews AND Gentiles. Share with the group what your favorite moment from Jesus' life is. (Holy week events don't count for this question!) 😊

Into the Word – 2 Kings 2:1-12a

1. This account was probably chosen for two reasons. First, Elijah was one of the two to appear on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus. But also it gives a glimpse of the glory of God as Elijah is taken up to heaven in a special way. What other Old Testament accounts could be used to show God's glory in a Transfiguration service?
2. We don't know much about the "company of the prophets." We see groups of prophets in 1 Samuel 10:5 and 19:20, but about all we can say is that these were likely schools of religion led by God's prophets. Somehow God revealed to these three schools that Elijah was going to be taken away. (As he had revealed to Elisha also.)
3. Verse nine reveals that Elijah himself knew he was going to be taken away. That means that everyone in this whole section knew what was about to happen! What do their actions in the face of the end of life teach to us as we consider our own mortality?
4. How does Elijah's proposal in verse 10 show that the "double portion of his spirit" wasn't his to give, but God's?
5. Elisha would later pray in 2 Kings 6:17 that his servant's eyes would be opened to see God's chariots of fire. It seems the armies of God are always with us – we just don't see them. Who are they fighting, and why is there such great comfort in their presence?

Into the Word – 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

6. Who is the "god of this age" (Note the lowercase "g") and how does he blind the minds of unbelievers?
7. Every pastor should set verse five as a personal motto for life. What two necessary qualities of a good pastor do you see in that verse?
8. Verse 4 says that people are "blinded" to the light of the gospel. Verse 6 says that God has "made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light." How does a person come to faith? Think of other verses that reinforce this important truth.
9. Discuss and explain the phrase, "God's glory displayed in the face of Christ." Was Jesus any less glorious when he was off the Mount of Transfiguration than when he was on it?

Into the Word – Mark 9:2-9

10. "Transfigured" is a unique word, used only four times in the New Testament, all of them talking about a change of image or look. Why is it better to say Jesus was "transfigured" rather than "transformed"? What changed on that mountain?
11. There are lots of theories about why Moses and Elijah were chosen to speak with Jesus on the mountain, but no one knows for sure. Share your guesses!
12. On the way down Jesus told the disciples not to say what they had seen "until the Son of Man had risen from the dead." Why stay silent until then? Why speak of it after?

Closing Prayer: Jesus, bless me to see your glory this week, that I might appreciate all the more your suffering we remember in Lent. Amen.