

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 7 February 2016

THE TRANSFIGURATION

As we Gather

Years before Jesus was born the prophets of Israel foretold the coming of Messiah, and Eastern astronomers / scientists watched the heavenly portents indicating the coming of a great king.

For those not blinded (and spiritually immature) by false expectations of Messiah and a legalistic religion of rules and rituals, the birth of Jesus, the reactions of Simeon and Anna in the Temple, the preaching of John the Baptist and his baptism of Jesus, Jesus' own healing and teaching, His return to Nazareth and His reading from the scroll of Isaiah, all revealed the glory of God's love for His creation as He released the Light of His Truth into the world.

Reading Scripture LUKE 9 : 28 – 36

Thinking Together

In and through Jesus, God offered to replace a covenant of Law made with the people of Israel by a covenant of Grace, freedom from spiritual bondage, life instead of death, for all people (John 1:14)

On His way to Jerusalem, Jesus asked the disciples who they believed Him to be – now He went up into the mountain to pray, taking Peter, James and John with Him, to show them that He was the Son of God

Why do you think He did this? Discuss

This was the only occasion Jesus revealed the glory of His person. The three men had been asleep, but when fully awake they saw His glory [Luke 9:32]

God's Son, Jesus, has God's power and authority - "listen to Him" [Luke 9:35], so our telling of the good news should embody Scriptural / His truth, not our own ideas and desires

How can we test preaching / recognise false teaching? Discuss (2 Peter 1:12-21)

We can miss much in life if our minds are "asleep" due to prejudice, mental lethargy, hedonism, and an un-teachable spirit. Just as sorrow, love, and a deep sense of need can, in spiritual immaturity, make us lose heart, but will make the spiritually mature turn to God and acknowledge the glory of the new covenant (2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2).

As we look into God's word and see God's Son, the Holy Spirit transforms us into the very image of God (2 Corinthians 3:18 James 1:22-25)

How does this happen? Discuss

In Closing

Peter wanted Jesus to hold onto the glory without the suffering (of the cross), but mountain top experiences are not the basis of Christian life.

The Word of God is the basis of Christian life, and prayer is one of the keys to a transformed life.

Moses reflected the radiance of God (Exodus 34:29-35)
Christians radiate the presence of God (Romans 12:1-2).

Our personal transfiguration comes from inner renewal.

PRAYER

Almighty Father, your Son was revealed in majesty before He suffered death upon the cross.
Give us grace to perceive His glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with Him and be changed
into His likeness from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen