



## Awoke in Glory– Touchpoint for February 26 2025

### Luke 9:28-37 (NRSVUE) The Transfiguration

#### TOUCH POINT

<sup>28</sup> Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. <sup>30</sup> Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup> They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup> Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah,” not realizing what he was saying. <sup>34</sup> While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” <sup>36</sup> When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

**Grace and peace to you from the Mystery in whom we live and move, and have our being.**

"When they became fully awake, they saw his glory."

The traditional interpretation of the transfiguration describes Jesus as the fulfillment of the law, the prophets, and the foreshadowing of the resurrection.

I do believe it's of great importance to have scholarly examination on the significance of the transfiguration—concerning the law of Moses, the divine oneness of Jesus and God, his suffering and resurrection but how is it relevant for us today in the climate we live?

I have not heard voices in the clouds or seen radiant faces recently, but there is something happening that reveals God's glory to me.

This week, I have the joy of co-grand parenting my grandsons—Aiden, Greyson and Elijah with their Nana while their parents are on a trip.

Hmm how appropriate the young one is named Elijah. He will be my witness.

As I was downstairs working on this message of transfiguration, I could hear Nana calmly and lovingly coaxing the fun-loving Elijah to bed. It was precious.

Why? Because Nana represented and enforced the bedtime laws or prophetic cautions for tomorrow? No. Maybe those things happen, but something else was happening.

Nana was in her element with Elijah, her grandson—a new generation of her creating. I saw our daughter, Elijah's mom, with her in spirit. Nana was in her glory, you might say.

I stopped, took off my reading glasses, closed my eyes and listened to Elijah tell excited stories. I could see three generations—and more—colliding in Nana’s glorious moment.

Am I making too much of this event by comparing it to the transfiguration of Jesus joined by Moses and Elijah? Am I minimizing the biblical account by humanizing the biblical characters with my event?

What would Jesus say? What would Moses and Elijah say? What would my mother or Nana’s mother and father say if they observed her alongside me? Doesn’t Hebrews say we are surrounded by a whole cloud of witnesses?

Nana was in her glory.

Sitting downstairs, staring weary eyed at the computer screen, I might have missed Nana and Elijah’s moment had I not stopped my hyper focus and become fully awake.

When we are fully awake, we see the glory of the mystery we call God revealed in our worlds. We see coming dangers and are alerted to our disastrous paths, which is the whole purpose of the law and the prophets.

I don’t know why Moses and Elijah were there with Jesus no more than I know why I got to be in this familial moment. I don’t know why Peter, John and James were there with Jesus either, but I’m getting a little better idea.

Just like Aiden, Greyson and Elijah, they will carry this with them. Generations of love will be glorified into their families.

As we show up for each other, we are forever witnesses to the future glory of those who come after.

The voice in the cloud said, “Listen to what Jesus tells you.” I would guess they had no trouble staying awake from then on. Like Peter, John and James, we must fight off our sleep.

To be fully awake is to overcome the force of spiritual sleep.

We can awaken to the truth we cannot be separated from God by man-made doctrines, imaginary borders or stone-hearted officials. Love prevails.

I believe all will be made right, but who will be witnesses to God’s glory right now? It will be those who see the mystery we call God—fully awake. Dare I say, fully “WOKE!”

I wonder if Jesus would have been as troubled with the “woke culture” today as much as with the sleeping culture obsessed with being social morality cops for God. Preventing any movement of loving transformation or acceptance of others in the name of Jesus, could be called *trans-disfiguration*—humans changing the image of Jesus, to serve their own selfish ambitions.

Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus. Peter, John, and James wanted to make three separate shelters for them. Why did the scripture say they didn't know what they were saying? They must have still been fighting sleep. They were just beginning their journey of transformation.

To be seen in glory is to witness the shared pleasure of divine love's presence through all generations at the very cellular level, from the inside out.

As poet Denise Levertov says:

"...Spirit streaming through every cell of flesh so that if mortal sight could bear to perceive it, it would be seen His mortal flesh was lit from within..."

The Cloud, the Spirit, is still speaking to us, calling us to do what Jesus says.

I pray today that every pastor and teacher of these passages will pause and be filled with the glory of the eternal presence of love that connects us. Maybe then we will turn from walls built to prevent the glory of God in each human being. Then, perhaps, we might see others as God sees them.

We must be transformed beyond our blind spots to see God's radiance in one another.

The transfiguration mystery, though difficult to comprehend, is still embraced by Christians as true. Why can't the same people embrace other people and experiences they can't understand. For example, the LGBTQ+ experience, the immigrant experience, the indigenous communities experience, etc.?

If a voice in the cloud spoke to us now, it would probably say the same thing it did to the disciples, "Do what he tells you to do!"

How is this glorified state of transfiguration achieved? My guess is it is an ongoing transformation of being fully awake to the God who *is*. Moses, Elijah, and Jesus forerunners in this mountain experience.

To do the will of His father is what it means for Jesus to be in his glory. That day they saw him as he was before his life was taken. He did not need to convince others who he was. They saw him as he was.

Maybe we need to ask ourselves: who are we?

Who is the authentic me when standing in the presence of God, fully awake? It is who God tells us we are. It is not holy perfection; it is a holy *desire*—a longing to be fully awake in God's presence.

God's glory is revealed when we act in our authentic loving self. God sees us as we are—full in his glory.

To be fully awake is to see the Glory of God revealed in what is most unfamiliar to us. No wonder Jesus was beaten and crucified as he identified with the least of these. Today it appears loving what is unfamiliar to our experience is a threat to "evangelical Christianity." Perhaps, we should be less concerned with a *woke culture*, and more with a *sleeping culture*. How do we begin this transformation and transfiguration?

We wake up and do what Jesus told us to do.

**Amen**

## Opening Songs

### **Be Still**

(The London Fox Taizé Choir)  
Be Still, know that I am God

### **Lamb of God**

(Salt of the Sound)  
Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God (hear our prayer),  
Lamb of God, Grant us peace (hear us pray).  
This we pray.

### **Bible Passage**

*(A passage takes us from one place to another)*

### **Touchpoint**

*(Where God's story touches our life story)*

### **Come O Lord and Set Us Free**

(John L. Bell, The Wild Goose Collection)

Come, O Lord and set us free. Give/Bring your people peace.

Come, O Lord and set us free. Come Lord Jesus, Come.

1. And take our guilt away. Give us your pardon Lord.
2. Free from our self-obsession. Free from each fond possession.
3. Free to affirm each other...as sister and as brother

Reshape the world you made. Let what your hand created...be always celebrated.

### **The Meal**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

(The Scottish Festival Singers)

### **Benediction**

### **May God Keep and Bless You**

(Marty Haugen)

May God keep and bless you, and nothing distress you. May God guard and guide you and friends walk beside you. May God's arms surround you and fear not confound you. May God's light shine through you and night not subdue you. As you sleep and wake may your prayers arise as love songs for God, whose love never dies, whose love never dies.

**Amen**