

Transfiguration Sunday, February 19, 2023

Scripture Reading: Matthew 17:1-9

*Listen to Jesus and follow him. That's the message of the Transfiguration.
—Pope Francis*

An online user poll ranked adult responses to the same “What-do-you-want-to-be” question asked of the kids. The top five responses? Get rich, be a singer, be a superhero, be a movie star and be a cowboy.

We learn at an early age that there are people in our world who are more admirable than others, based on our sense of their power, prestige and potential for greatness.

We bring this up because when Peter sees Jesus — *his* Jesus, the rabbi he’s chosen to follow — chatting with the two — THE TWO — heroes of his own faith, Moses and Elijah, he’s more excited than a groupie in a mosh pit.

Suddenly, everything falls into place for him: Jesus as Hero. Jesus as Messiah. Jesus as the One. Jesus the Anointed.

Peter is ready to proclaim Jesus as Hero of the Year and send him to Hawaii right now.

Of course, Peter doesn’t know what he’s talking about. This is what the Bible says: “Peter said to Jesus, ‘Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah’—*not knowing what he said*” (Luke 9:33 — emphasis added).

In his book, *Let Story Guide You*, author and speaker Donald Miller points out that in a great story, the strength and greatness of the protagonist are measured by *what dreams would potentially die if the hero does not succeed in the task*.

In other words, the greatest stories have great heroes with great tasks at hand. Have a heroic task, and a person to take it on, and you’ve got a fabulous story. Perhaps, this is what is foreshadowed in this Transfiguration account. Now we know that Jesus understands his mission. A great task lies before him. Perhaps, Moses and Elijah remind Jesus that he is the Person for the task. The salvation of the world is at stake.

Peter knew he was staring at a Hero.

This story reminds us that by any definition of the word “hero,” Jesus is it.

And for that we are forever grateful and in his debt.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for taking on the great task of the redemption of the world.
Amen.*

*Blessings,
Lisa & Pastor Ben Motz*

Daily Bible Readings
Sunday: Romans 1-4

Monday: Romans 5-8

Tuesday: Romans 9-11

Wednesday: Romans 12-16

Thursday: Proverbs 1-3

Friday: Proverbs 4-7

Saturday: Psalms 19-21

Verse to Remember

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.*

—Psalm 19:14

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS!

The answers to the following clues have one meaning when capitalized and a different meaning when not capitalized. Find the answers and write them in the spaces provided. Then unscramble the circled letters to reveal a very old person from the Old Testament.

Capitalized

1. A large country in Asia

2. Denver football player

3. Slavic language

4. A planet

5. City in Iowa

6. Expensive car

7. Citizen of country

near Pakistan

8. Soft drink

9. Month

10. Epic poet

11. Greek god of shepherds

12. Credit card

Non-capitalized

porcelain tableware

untamed horse

to shine something

a silvery element

a couch

buns

woolen blanket/shawl

slang for illegal drug

rhythmic movement

baseball's biggest hit

utensil

passport stamp

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SECRET PERSON ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

Answers: 1. china, 2. bronco, 3. polish, 4. mercury, 5. davenport, 6. rolls, 7. afghan, 8. coke, 9. march, 10. homer, 11. pan, 12. visa. Secret Person: Methuseleh.