

12 May 2013: Preached by Rev Quek Suan Yew

Topic: **The Life of Apostle Peter – The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ**

Scripture Text: Matthew 17: 1-9

1. Peter, James and John saw the most amazing miracle of God. With their physical eyes, they had seen Jesus Christ as a man but must believe His deity by faith. At the Mount of Transfiguration, they saw Jesus Christ in His glory as the Son of God with their physical eyes.
2. Six days after Peter was rebuked for stopping Jesus from going to the cross, the transfiguration of Jesus Christ took place. It may be for Peter's sake to see Jesus as God incarnate, that Peter might continue to stand and be identified with Jesus Christ when He would be crucified. Transfigured = Metamorphosis. Jesus was totally transformed and His face glowed as the sun. This shows the glory that Jesus put aside to be born into this earth. This makes us wonder why Jesus would want to come down to this sin sick world and dwell with wicked people. He came from heaven where there is no sin nor evil.
3. During the transfiguration, the disciples saw Moses and Elijah. Peter was able to recognize Moses and Elijah because God put into their minds this memory. Peter was very foolish by asking God to make 3 tabernacles, meaning that he wanted them to continue to stay on earth. He did not understand the significance of this transfiguration. God wanted the 3 disciples to continue to remain faithful and courageous.
4. God the Father spoke and said "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased". All that Jesus has done and will be going to do is well pleasing to God. The disciples fell down and became scared hearing the voice. Jesus then went over and hold on to them, asking them to stand up and not be afraid. This was not to make them afraid but to give them courage.
5. After the transfiguration event, Jesus commanded the disciples not to tell the vision to no man until He has risen again. Jesus wanted them to believe in Him and His deity by faith. Some days after the transfiguration when Jesus was taken away by the soldiers, Peter was confronted whether he knew Christ. Peter denied Jesus Christ three times. He saw the transfiguration and Christ in His glory, yet he didn't have the courage. We shouldn't ask God for the transfiguration but what we need is faith. At the end of Peter's life, it was God's Word which strengthened him and he had the courage to stand up for God. When we place our faith on experiences and our five senses, it will eventually fail us. Only God's Word can give us the courage.