

**Let Jesus Brighten Your Day**

- Feb can sometimes be tough time yr, can't? Outside this time yr, always so cold/dark, gloomy/grey. Few days ago, driving – sun thru clouds! So bright, sunglasses. Thought: nice change; haven't seen sun wks! Admit: between ystday/today, sunny wkend. But you know: this time year, often just so cloudy/grey – that can take toll on psyche, leave feeling down – like warm beach smwhr, but not on it. This time yr can be rough; but it's not just weather. Maybe heard recently re number people, young/old, diagnosed with life thrtng diseases, undergoing serious treatments. Last few mos, sev deaths in cong; means fams/widows among us hurting/mourning. I'm familiar with sev marriages falling apart, rels breaking down. And all this weighs so heavily on hearts. So whether talking conds out there, or conds in here, I think many people right now going thru dark time.
- Discs going thru dark time, too. In ch before Gospel, J had big sit down with discs: we're going Jrslm; when get there, I'm suffer many things; they're going put me to death; kill me. Then rise – but I think discs missed that last part; so stuck on this terrible thought J dying. J went on say: **“Whoever wants be my disc must deny selves, take up cross, follow me.”** Cross! Not word used in polite company – terrible, awful form execution. J saying: I've got cross bear; you do, too. So you can understand if discs were feeling disheartened/depressed, if going through dark time.
- So J brightened their day. **Vs. 1-2a.** Ever happen you: going thru dark time in life, someone does/says smthg, just lifts spirits? Could be having rotten day; but someone arm around shoulder, says smthg really kind – just brightens your day. Or maybe they give you really nice gift, card, text msg, a hand with project working on, even just smile – whatever, some unexpected act of kindness – and it's just what you needed, that little boost of joy to get you thru. It brightened your day.
- Let J brighten your day, with his transfig. What happened on that mnt certainly brighten anyone's day. **Vs. 2a** – means appearance somehow changed; transformed – still J; they still recogn him; but appearance was altered in dazzling, otherworldly way. **Vs. 2b** – so they prob squinting, covering eyes; hardly able to look directly at face, so bright. **Vs. 2c** – think re this: J was giving them vision what looks like right now in hvn. J sort of peeled back ethereal curtain, let them see, just for moment, vision of hvn! Try put self there; put self on mnt, look at what they're seeing – an extraordinary vision, smthg never seen before, never again until hvn. And J wasn't alone; **vs. 3** – and in Lk's Gospel: **“They spoke re his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jrslm” (9:31).** So here have great Law-giver Moses, who died, buried by God himself; and great prophet Elijah, who never died but was carried to hvn in chariot of fire – these two pillars of OT are talking with J, re his mission to suff/die on cross, rise fr dead to save world. And this what discs are witnessing; this what we get see today, too. This is just what discs needed during their dark time. And this exactly what we need too, when we're going thru dark time in life.
- You know: only people that actually got see transfig, PJJ. And at end, J: **vs. 9.** So J wanted this incident shared later on, with people like you/me, reading it in Scripture. Means J intended this incident for us – transfigd for us, for our benefit. This is reason J was transfigd in first place. Didn't have do this; wasn't nec for him. But did it for our benefit, to show us his glory, brighten our day. So many times in life, our faith challenged. Some tragedy/darkness interrupts its way into our lives: a sickness, diagnosis, death, divorce, broken rels, hurt feelings, guilt over our sins, doubts re God's love, “Where, God? How let happen? Why putting me thru this? When end? Don't you care?” This is darkness we deal with in life.
- But this is darkness that J shatters with his transfig. There on mnt, J says: “Here I am; this who I truly am. I'm not just silent observer, passive bystander in your life. I am the Christ of God; glory of hvn; and I've come here to be with you, help you, show you brightness of my love. I've come to take away your darkness, to take your place under God's wrath. I've come to bear your cross, suffer terrible death as your sub, so that you may be wrapped in brightness of my rightns, have eternal life in hvn.” There on mnt, shining in “majestic glory,” J says: “I am your Sav, Redeemer, Helper, Friend, God.”

- Let J brighten your day. You need this; we all need this! We need the transfig of J to remind us that J is in control! He shines w/ brightness hvn, governing universe, right down to very details of lives. There's nothing that escapes his attn. He knows what going thru; cares – he's in control. We need remem this vision when look at cross, bec there we see his glory, too, but it's hidden: behind bruises, blood, thorns, spit, tears, pain, death. On cross doesn't look glorious at all; it's a dark, depressing sight, gloomy/grey. But we need both: we need glory of transfig & cross, to remind us who J truly is, and what came do for us. Let J brighten your day. Let the transfig bring light into your darkness, joy into your heart.
- As PJJ watching this whole thing unfold – J talking M&E – smthg remarkable happens: Pt interrupts; J! Vs. 4. Certainly was good him be there, just like good us be here today. But Pt was doing talking, when God wanted him be doing listening. Vs. 5a (Pt running mouth; God interrupts him), vs. 5. Listen to J. That's what you've got do when going thru dark time in life: listen to J. There's time for talking: with fam/friends, to Dr, to Lord in prayer. But also time for listening. If, when, weight of world pressing you down, listen to J. Listen him speak in his word. His are only words that really matter anyway, right? **“Lord, to whom go; you words etrnal life” (Jn 6:68).** Listen J, say: **“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine” (Isa 43:1).** Listen J, say: **“See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands” (Isa 49:16).** Listen J, say: **“Though the mnts be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken, nor my covenant of peace be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you” (Isa 54:10).** Sometimes instead of doing talking, we need do listening and listen to J, just like Father said: vs. 5b.
- When discs heard loud voice: vs. 6b-7. The touch of J calmed their fears, just like touch of friend, hand on shoulder, loving embrace, hearty handshake, at just right time, can brighten your day. And then vs. 8. All over now – no more: bright light, hvnly glory, M&E – just melancholy walk down mnt, back on journey, toward Jrslm, so J could suff/die. Things quickly got dark again for discs.
- You have darkness to face again, too: crosses to bear, heartache to endure. Remem today; this transfig. J did this for you, so you could see his glory, and be reminded that no matter what darkness you face in life, J will always be your light, and his love will always shine on you. J is in control, of the world and of your world. Knows what you need; he'll always be there. Remem what you see today, as gaze on glory of J, and as you journey thru season Lent, which leads to cross & empty tomb. Whether your life right now is shining so brightly that you need sunglasses, or life for you is cold/dark, gloomy/grey: take in this transfig; take in this glorious brightness, and store it away in your heart, for the good days and for bad. Let J – by his transfig – brighten your day, today & every day.

### Matthew 17:1-9

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup> There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup> Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

<sup>4</sup> Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

<sup>5</sup> While he [Peter] was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

<sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don't be afraid.” <sup>8</sup> When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”