

## **Scripture Lesson for February 14, 2021 – Transfiguration Sunday**

### **Introduction to the Epistle Lesson: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

Listen now to a reading from second Corinthians, chapter 4, verses 3-6 about the strong message of Jesus.

### **A Reading from 2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

<sup>3-4</sup> If our Message is obscure to anyone, it's not because we're holding back in any way. No, it's because these other people are looking or going the wrong way and refuse to give it serious attention. All they have eyes for is the fashionable god of darkness. They think he can give them what they want, and that they won't have to bother believing a Truth they can't see. They're stone-blind to the dayspring brightness of the Message that shines with Christ, who gives us the best picture of God we'll ever get.

<sup>5-6</sup> Remember, our Message is not about ourselves; we're proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Master. All we are is messengers, errand runners from Jesus for you. It started when God said, "Light up the darkness!" and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful.

### **Introduction: The Gospel Lesson Mark 9:1-9**

In the latter part of chapter 8 in Mark's gospel, Jesus asks the disciples who they think he is; Peter blurts out, "you are the Christ, the Messiah." Jesus then instructs them not to talk about His real identity and what being the Messiah means for his future. In Mark 8:38, Jesus pushes his point: <sup>38</sup> *"If any of you are embarrassed over me and the way I'm leading you when you get around your fickle and unfocused friends, know that you'll be an even greater embarrassment to the Son of Man when he arrives in all the splendor of God, with an army of the holy angels."* Then in our text for today, chapter 9, verses 1-9 (the story of the transfiguration) Jesus and the disciples experience the splendor of God: Listen to a reading from Mark:

### **Gospel Lesson: Mark 9:2-9**

**9** Then he drove it home by saying, "This isn't pie in the sky by and by. Some of you who are standing here are going to see it happen, see the kingdom of God arrive in full force."

<sup>2-4</sup> Six days later, three of them *did* see it. Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain. His appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes. His clothes shimmered, glistening white, whiter than any bleach could make them. Elijah, along with Moses, came into view, in deep conversation with Jesus.

<sup>5-6</sup> Peter interrupted, “Rabbi, this is a great moment! Let’s build three memorials—one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah.” He blurted this out without thinking, stunned as they all were by what they were seeing.

<sup>7</sup> Just then a light-radiant cloud enveloped them, and from deep in the cloud, a voice: “This is my Son, marked by my love. Listen to him.”

<sup>8</sup> The next minute the disciples were looking around, rubbing their eyes, seeing nothing but Jesus, only Jesus.

<sup>9-10</sup> Coming down the mountain, Jesus swore them to secrecy. “Don’t tell a soul what you saw. After the Son of Man rises from the dead, you’re free to talk.” They puzzled over that, wondering what on earth “rising from the dead” meant.