

FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD 2.14.2021

Let's look at the Bible readings for the 6th Sunday after the Epiphany, Feb. 14, to prepare for on-line, drive-in, and in-person worship (10 am) with Abounding Joy.

1ST READING: Exodus 34:29-35 Moses talks with God on Mount Sinai

²⁹When Moses came down from **Mount Sinai**, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from **the mountain**, Moses did not know that the skin of his face **shone** because **he had been talking with God**. ³⁰Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face **shone**, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. ³²Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that **the**

Lord had spoken with him in **Mount Sinai**. ³³And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. ³⁴Whenever Moses went in before the Lord **to speak with him**, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, ³⁵the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was **shining**. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in **to speak with him**.

SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER RELATED TO EXODUS, CHAPTER 34

1. In the Bible many important things happen on mountain tops. Can you name 3-5 of them?
2. Why did the face of Moses shine? (See vs. 29)
3. Why were the people afraid of Moses?
4. If the shining is a sign of glory, what does that say about where any glory that we may have comes from?

2ND READING: 2 Corinthians 3:12-13, 4:1-6 God's gift of seeing the Good News of Jesus

¹²Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³not like Moses, who would put a **veil** over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end.

¹Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ²But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with **God's word**, but by the open statement of **the truth** we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³And even

if **our gospel** is **veiled**, it is **veiled** to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing **the light** of **the gospel of the glory of Christ**, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let **light** shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give **the light** of the knowledge of **the glory** of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER RELATED TO II CORINTHIANS, CHAPTERS 3 & 4:

1. It seems that Moses wore a veil in part, so that the people wouldn't be frightened, and in part so that they wouldn't be able to see that the glory of God, which caused his face to shine, was fading. Does that sound like an act of vanity, perhaps?
2. Who is "the god of this world" mentioned in verse 4?
3. What does it mean to say (vs. 5) that Jesus "is the image of God"? (See Colossians 1:15-20)
4. Genesis 1:3 is quoted in verse 6. On this last Sunday in the Epiphany season we continue with a theme of light. An epiphany is a revealing (or revelation) of something that had been hidden. What are some things about God that Jesus reveals to us through His life, death, and resurrection?

THE GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9 Jesus is transfigured on the mountain top

²After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high **mountain** by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and

one for Elijah." ⁶For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." ⁸And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. ⁹And as they were coming down **the mountain**, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER RELATED TO MARK, CHAPTER 9:

1. Jesus' clothing became "radiant, intensely white." Compare this with Exodus 34:29 (above) and with Revelation 1:16 and Daniel 7:9.
2. Compare God's words here (verse 7) with His words in Mark 1:11 at Jesus' baptism. What's the significance of the similarity of these messages?
3. In the Old Testament what do Moses and Elijah represent? What does it signify that on the mountain top they disappear but Jesus remains?
4. What's similar in the talking experiences that happen in Exod. 34: 29, 34-35, and Mark 9:4?
5. In verse 5, why did Peter want to "camp out" and stay on the mountain top?
6. Why does Jesus tell the three disciples to keep this transfiguration experience a secret until after His resurrection? (See also: Mark 1:34; 1:40-44; 3:11-12; and 7:31-37)
7. This top of the mountain revelation of Jesus' true identity is a preview of what other future glorious events in the Jesus story?