

Pastor Dave Rohde

For Sunday, September 29th "A Glimpse of the Kingdom"

Exodus 34:29-35 – NIV

²⁹ When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. ³² Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the Lord had given him on Mount Sinai.

³³ When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. ³⁴ But whenever he entered the Lord's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵ they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the Lord.

Matthew 17:1-13 – NIV

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. ³ Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. ⁴ 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." ⁵ While he 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!"

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

⁹ 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."

¹⁰ The disciples asked him, "Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"

¹¹ Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. ¹² But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." ¹³ Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.

Takeaway: An invitation to follow Jesus (and experience God's Kingdom) is an invitation to hit pause, seek understanding, and move beyond what's comfortable.

Questions:

1. If you could spend an afternoon on a mountaintop with three people from history (ANYONE!), who would it be and why?
2. Share about a time when following Jesus forced you to step out of your comfort zone. How were you stretched? What did you learn?
3. Reflect on Peter's initial response on the mountain (Matthew 17:4). Why do you think he responds the way that he does? In what ways do we, like Peter, sometimes rush to act instead of pausing to seek God's direction?
4. Why do you think Jesus told Peter, James, and John not to tell anyone about the Transfiguration until after His resurrection?

Sermon: <https://podcast.wpcwestlake.org/services/mp3/sermon20240929.mp3>

Service Video: <https://youtu.be/wmIJdWmtaNM>