

NIV Luke 9:28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. 29 As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. 30 Two men, Moses and Elijah, 31 appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. 32 Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. 33 As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters-- one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.) 34 While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. 35 A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." 36 When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen.

**Opening Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ, on the Mount of Transfiguration you showed your divine glory to your disciples to prepare them to see your passion for a world of sinners. Today Lord through your powerful Word of law and gospel prepare our whole being soul and body to see and believe correctly your mission to save us. Amen.

**“This is My Son, Whom I Have Chosen!”**

- 1) Gaze on His Glory
- 2) Memorize His Mission
- 3) Follow His Voice

**Introduction:** Are you easily distracted? Or do you have laser like focus? With modern technology always on and in front of us we have more information and more decisions to make on what we should do, need to do, now and later. The amount of information we have at our fingertips is overwhelming. A research study done says that the Sunday paper put out by the New York Times contains as much information as a European Nobleman in the 1700's would learn in his whole lifetime. The cost of being distracted is higher than you might think. Every time you have to refocus on a job or task you use up energy. Your mental and physical energy isn't limitless. Your productivity goes down, yes your grades and your performance at work. Scientists and psychologist are prescribing for people to turn off the distractions. Unplug from the devices. And focus on what matters most.

What if you get distracted from Christ? What if you lose focus and understanding of the passion of our Lord? What if you are distracted from His Voice, His Mission, His Glory? The cost is our souls and the souls of our loved ones. Today the Lord prepares us to see his Passion correctly. Gaze on His Glory. Memorize His Mission and Follow His Voice.

**1) Gaze on His Glory**

Jesus took three of his disciples away from the crowds, away from the rest of the disciples up to the top of a mountain. They were isolated from the rest of the world and focused on Jesus Christ. Jesus focused his attention and used his precious time to pray. **29 As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning**

Normally Jesus appeared as a Jewish man in his 30's. There on that mountain his appearance changed. Mark says his clothes were dazzling white. Matthew records for us that his face was shining as bright as the sun. Jesus of Nazareth is no normal man in his 30's. Jesus of Nazareth has the glory of God himself. He is the Son of God. As Jesus told the apostle John is his revelation: NIV Revelation 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Normally Jesus Christ, the Son of God, covered up his divine glory. But that didn't mean that he did not have it. He had the power and the authority to pick up his divine glory and use it whenever he wanted to use it. The disciples recorded for us many times when they saw him use his divine power and glory to drive out demons, heal the sick, silence the storms and even raise the dead. Here he prepared his disciples for his passion by showing them his divine glory as the Son of God. As they would see him being arrested, mocked and ridiculed, suffering and crucified, dead and buried, the memory of His face shining as the sun, clothes dazzling white like lightning would help them connect the dots.

**2) Memorize His Mission**

The glory of God in the face of Jesus is amazing enough yet the Lord gave his disciples even more to prepare them for His passion. Moses and Elijah were sent down from heaven to talk with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. Two great believers in God's promise to crush the devil's head and rescue all sinners were there to talk about Jesus' departure he was about to bring to fulfillment in Jerusalem.

Two words pop out of that sentence for us. “Departure” and “Fulfillment” When I hear the word departure I think of getting on board a flight on time. They are talking about his departure from earth. His death and resurrection is the topic of conversation! In fact it has been the topic of conversation for Jesus and his disciples as well. Strangely though the disciples never wanted to talk about it or when they did speak up about it they let Jesus know that they would try to stop his death. Peter took Jesus aside and scolded him for talking about his arrest and death. Peter made good on his threat to stop Jesus arrest and death as well in the garden of Gethsemane, when he ripped off an ear of one of the arresting temple guards with a short sword. But the death of Christ, God’s chosen one had been a topic of conversation long before the Mount of Transfiguration, long before the disciples and Peter, long before all the way to the Garden of Eden and down through the generations. God promised to send the suffering servant who would take the place of sinners. God promised a sacrifice fro the sins of the world. By His Wounds we are healed. The punishment that would bring us peace would be on him.

The other word that pops out is fulfillment. If someone continues to talk about their death we would worry about them. They have an unhealthy preoccupation with death, something that they cannot control and that gets in the way of our normal functioning as people. Yet Jesus Christ talks of it often. In fact he takes steps to make certain it happens. He brings it to fulfillment. He knows how he will die and when and where. So he marches straight into it. Throughout his passion of suffering and dying in our place on Golgotha we hear his passion, to die for us, his determination and commitment that will let no man, no power, nothing get in his way. Listen to these words of our Savior when people warned him about going to Jerusalem for fear of his life: **NIV Luke 13:31 At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you." 32 He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.'**

Listen to these words on the night he was betrayed by Judas: **NIV John 12:31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. 32 But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."**

Listen to these words of Jesus right before he was arrested by the temple guards in the Garden of Gethsemane: **NIV Mark 14:41 Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"**

Don’t those words just give you a sense of peace and comfort? That’s our Savior. He would let nothing stop him from his mission. He was actively marching to his death for you, for us all. Memorize those words on his mission. Memorize that long promise and fulfilled mission. You are going to need them.

### **3) Follow His Voice**

God the Father spoke out loud to the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration: “This is my Son, whom I have chosen: Listen to him.” There on top of the mountain those three disciples had all the protection and advantages they needed to stay on course. Who was Jesus Christ? Gaze at His Glory – He’s the divine Son of God. There was no doubt that Jesus Christ was true man and true God chosen to be the one. And the one to do what? Listen to Moses and Elijah, two great believing men cheering Jesus on to complete the mission, suffer and die on the cross in place of us all, in place of all sinners. But here comes the problem, they had to go back down the mountain and be overwhelmed with distractions. Some were distracted by family. Some were so passionate about their family they stopped following Jesus. Some were distracted by fame. Some were so passionate about being in positions of honor and power that they looked down on others. Some were distracted by fear. Some were so afraid of being arrested, beaten and tortured and put to death that they ran away naked and hid behind locked doors as Jesus met his enemies, his trial, and his crucifixion alone. Some were distracted by fortune. Some were so passionate about money even to the point of betraying Jesus into the hands of those who crucified him for 30 silver pieces. What is your distraction? Worse what are your distractions? The evil angels know. The sinful world knows. Together they are actively working on you and your Christian family to forget, ignore and doubt the true identity of Jesus Christ, the completed mission of Jesus Christ and his faithful and true Living Word. Paul told the Ephesians that the god of this age has blinded people so that they do not see the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Follow the Father’s advice. Overcome all the distractions. Be passionate for one thing over them all – Follow the Voice of Your Savior Jesus Christ. His Word leads us through the distractions of this dangerous world, safely home to the glory of heaven with all his forgiven family.

**NIV Revelation 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. 14 "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.**