

Bible Notes for Small Groups WB 11th May. 2025
Matthew 17:1-9

So much of Jesus' life speaks about the love and the mercy of God towards us.

- Thinking of all the things we read about Jesus' life in the Gospels, which event would you most like to have witnessed?

The disciples who went up the mountain with Jesus must have held on to that moment. **So how do we maintain such a spiritual moment in the church and in our individual lives.**

The word for 'transformed' used in today's reading means 'metamorphosised'. He was changed.... His whole appearance was changed before their eyes. For a fleeting moment they saw the whole glory of God on that mountain. Not only that they saw Moses [the Law] and Elijah [the voice of the prophets] with Jesus. On top of that they heard the loud voice of God telling them to listen to Jesus. They were terrified and fell to the ground. Who can blame them?

- Have you ever been scared or puzzled by something God has done?

Peter's response to the whole experience was to say 'It's good to be here.' Does it ever get any better than that! Peter wants to stay in the moment but Jesus tells them they have to get up because it's time to go down.

We had a wonderful Easter Sunday/Baptism service and then a wonderful ladies' Day. Both were very special and one followed hard on the heels of the other. Something very significant and eternally specific is happening here at the moment and God's armies are going before us.

- What were your reactions to or thoughts about the Easter Sunday service and the Ladies' Day

Do we stay in the moment and hold on to the experience as long as we can? **No.** Life is lived not on the mountain peak but at the foot of the mountain with all the usual challenges that life throws at us. **Fruit is grown in the valley.**

God takes people up the mountain to get their attention and we have certainly been up the mountain recently.

When the disciples were experiencing the transformation that Jesus showed them, he was actually saying... look, this is what went before, this is what is happening now and this is what is to come.

And God says to us 'Listen to Jesus.'

- Do you have any tips to help others to listen to Jesus?

**So now as we come down the mountain
how do we maintain the momentum of faith
and the Holy Spirit?**

1] **PRAY.** We see Jesus, in the Gospels, praying all the time for every situation. His whole life is lived in prayer. He is our example to seek God all the time.

- How do you pray all the time for everything? Has your relationship with God deepened over the years and how is it different now to when you were first saved?

2] **LISTEN** for God's voice. God told the Israelites in the Old Testament to listen to His mouthpiece, the Prophets. He speaks directly to the disciples telling them to listen to Jesus and they were never the same again. As we come down the mountain it is essential that we listen for Jesus' voice among all the other voices that are at us all the time every day.

*God is telling us to listen to Jesus' voice.
It involves taking a risk.*

3] **SPEND TIME WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE A PASSION FOR GOD** not with those who pull you down. When we are in the presence of someone who has a passion for God it is infectious. When we spend time with those who are critical or negative, gossips or those who always see the dark side of everything it is so easy to fall into the trap of becoming like them and we become weighed down just like them. NO.

May we become those who are on fire for God.

- What passionate person for God has inspired you?

Athletes who want to be quick and win races shed as much weight as they possibly can even to the kind of material their sports clothes are made of. Sometimes we carry heavy baggage around.

*We need to
LET IT GO.
THIS IS FREEDOM*

God has big hands and He fills them with blessings for us. We need to avail ourselves of them as soon as we can.

In verse 6 we see the disciples falling down in fear. Jesus touches them and they can rise up. We need not to be scared by God at work. Sometimes we are fearful because we don't understand what He is doing. We need to trust Jesus and make Him the focus of our lives. This will enable us to endure.

If we have people who come regularly to AFC but have not learned to love then we fail. We must continue to look to Jesus, listen to Him and live the gospel that He teaches us.

This will help us to persevere and get to the finish line.