Mark 9:1-9 – Light On the Mountain

Theme: There is more to life than what we can normally see and the transfiguration helps us to see what is ultimate about life and how our lives should be oriented. From Dr. Goligher, “One of the great lessons of the transfiguration is that there is more to life than we can normally see.”

1. Mark 9:1-8 records the account of the transfiguration. The transfiguration was a surprising and stunning sight for Peter, James and John. Can you recall an experience when you saw something that really surprised or impacted you by its beauty or significance?

2. Dr. Goligher began the reading for his sermon in 8:38 and noted from that verse that “we cannot have Jesus and ignore or deny or edit his words.” What particular words of Jesus do you find difficult to own? Are there particular situations where this is especially difficult?

3. How would the transfiguration have helped the disciples as they faced temptations associated with identifying with Jesus? How can this passage about the transfiguration help us as we face resistance to identifying with Christ today?

In his sermon, Dr. Goligher stated that in the transfiguration we see an anticipation (1) of Christ’s glorious appearing or return, (2) our own bodily resurrection and (3) the beatific vision of God that awaits believers in glory. Pointing ahead to the future vision of the glory of God anticipated in the transfiguration of Christ, he said, “(That) vision, the sight of God, will answer all of your questions. That vision of God will resolve all your doubts. That vision of God will be reward for all your service. That vision of God will be your supreme passion, delight, joy throughout all eternity. That’s your destiny. That is the end of the Christian life.... That life, after Jesus’ appearing, after our bodily resurrection, when we see that beatific vision of God, that life will be far more real to you than the shadowlands in which we live today. And so, Christian, your longing in life should be oriented to that great end.”

4. How does this application of the text speak to your life today? (You might consider current or anticipated trials and hardships, your present focus in life, your motivation, etc.)

5. How might this text and these lessons from the transfiguration help you as you care for and minister to others?

6. How can we maintain the kind of life clarity that the transfiguration (experienced first-hand by Peter, James and John or mediated through the account of Scripture) provides?

Other Scripture to consider: 2 Pet. 1:16-18; John 1:14-18; Mark 13:24-27; 1 Cor. 15; Psalm 11:7, 17:15 24:1-6; Matt. 5:8; 1 Cor. 13:8-12; 2 Cor. 4:6; John 17:24-26; Psalm 27:1-4