**Luke 9:28-36**

**28Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. 29And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. 30Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. 31They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. 32Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. 33Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” —not knowing what he said. 34While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. 35Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” 36When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.**

## 2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2

**12Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, 13not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. 14But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. 15Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; 16but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.17Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.**

**Message: Listening to Jesus.**

**We are going to stay in the Luke reading today, but both our New Testament Scriptures have their basis in the Old Testament when Moses went up on Mt Sinai to receive the commandments. Having spent such a long time in the presence of the Lord, his face shone brightly.**

**This is recorded in Exodus 34: ‘As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. 30When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him.’ For their sake Moses put a veil over his face when he was with the people but he took if off when he went up to talk to God on the mountain.**

**Just like Moses went up Mt Sinai to pray, so too Jesus went up a mountain to pray, spending time with his Heavenly Father. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothes shone out with a bright whiteness. All of a sudden, the figures of Moses, and of Elijah appeared with Jesus and they spoke to him of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.**

**The previous section of Luke was where Peter had declared Jesus to be the Christ, the Messiah and then Jesus began to speak to them that he was going to die and be raised to new life on the third day. Here, on the mountain top, as a way of affirming this, Elijah and Moses are overheard speaking about what Jesus would accomplish in Jerusalem where Jesus would go to die.**

**As the figures departed, Peter blurted out let’s make three shelters, “one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”, but he really had no idea what he was saying – he was so caught up in this unexplainable experience. Maybe he wanted to hold onto the moment which was passing, maybe he wanted to create some form of monument to so there would be a place where people would come to, to mark the occasion.**

**Whatever reason he had, such a thing was quite unnecessary, but before they could descend the mountain a terrifying thick cloud engulfed them and they heard the voice of God saying – ‘This is my beloved son, listen to him.’**

**The season of lent begins on Wednesday, for those who follow lent. It is a season where people especially consider the death of Jesus for us. Here on the mountain with God speaking. Jesus definitely began to head towards the cross.**

**The voice of God our Heavenly Father affirmed that Jesus as His chosen son. Jesus had a journey harder than any experience we will have to go through. He was going to a cruel and unjust death, but more than that, that he was going to carry the weight of all our sin on his shoulders. As Isaiah (53) proclaimed:** **he was pierced for our transgressions,
    he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
    and by his wounds we are healed.**

**Our sufferings in a way connect with the sufferings of Jesus, but we cannot ever appreciate the immense pain he carried for us to bring us peace and healing (a healing which is not ever fully accomplished this side of eternity).**

**For Jesus, to hear from his Father, words of affirmation at this time when he was turning towards Jerusalem for the last time, must have been a great support for Jesus. We can only imagine him holding on to these words as he lay awake at night thinking about what lay ahead. You are my son, my chosen one.**

**But the word of God was not just for Jesus, it was particularly for his closest friends. Peter, James and John, those fishermen who he had called beside the lake to follow him because now they would be fishing for people, not fish. We know, that Peter argued with Jesus when he said he had to die.**

**Peter, James and John heard God the Father say to them, ‘listen to Him.’ Jesus didn’t have an identity crisis, he knew he was God’s Son. But as Peter, James and John carried on following Jesus and as they struggled to hear the difficult message that the Son of man must die, they were especially commanded ‘to listen to him,’ not just hearing his words, but taking on board his message.**

**The next days and months would be a real roller-coaster ride with ups and downs and twists and turns. They were to take on board what Jesus told them – even if it was a message they did not want to hear.**

**For us: are there times of trial in our lives at the moment? Is life very up and down? Maybe there are twists and turns in life’s roadway and you are not sure what will be around the next corner. God encourages us, as he did the disciples, to listen to Jesus. As God’s chosen Son Jesus was the visible likeness of the invisible God. When they saw Jesus they saw what God was like.**

**When life is unpredictable, when it does not go the way we think it should, then that is the time to hold onto our faith and to listen especially to the words of Jesus. These come to us though reading the Bible and also from listening to the still small voice of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**

**Questions for discussion**

**1 - Jesus went up on the mountain to pray. Do you have a special place or a special time of the day that you go to for prayer?**

**2 - Jesus face changed in its appearance. In what ways does prayer change your life?**

**3 - What challenges are there which can make listening to Jesus difficult in today’s world?**

**4 - Are there some verses of scripture which have especially helped you to keep the faith in your life?**