

“A Preview of Heaven”

Based on Mark 9:2-9 (NIV)

February 11, 2018

Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

Mark 9:2-3

2 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.

3 His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.

† **The transfiguration of Jesus is a preview of heaven.**

Mark 9:4-5

4 And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

5 Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

† **Elijah, the greatest prophet in the Old Testament, and Moses, who had written the first 5 books of the Old Testament and is the giver of God’s laws, are talking with Jesus.**

† **Peter wants to capture this “mountaintop” experience and keep it forever.**

† **God does not want me frozen in time at a moment to stay there.**

† **God wants me to remember and be able to look back and see how I've grown – To move on.**

Mark 9:7 - Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

† **The original Greek word used in the text for “listen” is *akouete*, and it means not merely hearing, but the hearing that leads to obeying what is heard.**

Mark 9:9 - As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

† **I would probably see more previews of heaven, have more mountaintop experiences, if I would listen and obey more to God.**

† **Idea for Lent: “Give up” at least one minute a day of my time and listen to God.**

Applying Today’s Message to My Life:

† When have I had a “mountain top” experience?

† When have I been talking when I should have been listening?

† When have I experienced God “speaking” to me? Did I listen? Did I obey?

† Am I listening and obeying God now (through prayer, through meditation, through reading the Bible, through listening to others)?

† How can I better listen to and obey God this week?
This Lent (Feb. 14 through April 1)?