

## **When You Talk to God, Your Appearance Changes**

### **Mark 9: 2-13**

Antoine de Saint-Exupery was noted for his beautiful little book entitled, "The Little Prince", but he also wrote stories about flight. He was one of the first professional pilots. He flew the mail in North Africa before the First World War. He wrote a marvelous book about flight, titled, "Wind, Sand and Stars." In it he drew an analogy between flying and the human spirit. He said, that is what we are born for. Our spirits should fly, be free, soar, take risks, and achieve great heights. That is what we are born for, he wrote.

He said he experienced that kind of spiritual exhilaration when he flew, especially at night, over the deserts of Africa. Once when he came back to France, he took a train up to Paris, and sat opposite an old peasant couple in one of the compartments. He said he was shocked at what he saw. Their appearance was old, defeated, and tired.

As he watched them, he imagined what they looked like when they were young. He pictured them falling in love, the man bringing gifts of love to his beloved, flowers and candy. She being flirtatious. Them getting married and looking forward to a wonderful future together.

He looks at them now, seated across from him, and considers that they are now like lumps of clay. "Into what terrible mold were they forced? What marked them like this? What machine has stamped them? What is it that corrupts this wonderful clay from which we are created?" He could see in their outward appearance that the inner spirit had died. It showed. Our experiences can shape our appearance.

In the Mark passage, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up the mountain with him to watch and pray. While Jesus prays, his face and clothes are transfigured, and there is a dazzling, bright light. In the Bible, that can only mean one thing – God is talking with Jesus in the same way God talked to Moses in Exodus and Jesus' appearance changes in the same way too. When you talk to God, your appearance changes.

We have seen individuals that seem excited and positive about life. For me, it is energizing to be with a group of people exploring how to do a new ministry or develop a new way to worship God. It is energizing to be with people filled with desire to serve the Lord in any capacity they can. I love to see people transformed right before my eyes, as they step out of their comfort zone and do something for the Lord for the first time. It is contagious and exciting to be a part of.

When we are serving the Lord, there is no stopping us. We are transformed and filled with life. When we are in the presence of God it is an experience, we will always remember.

We saw it when Martin Luther King gave his last sermon. He delivered it April 3, 1968, on the eve of his assassination, at Mason Temple in Memphis, Tennessee, the headquarters of the Church of God in Christ, the largest African American Pentecostal denomination in the United States. He concluded his remarks that night:

“I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountain top. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people will get to the promised land. And I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.”

May we pray to see God's glory in our lives and ask how we might be a part of bringing God's kingdom here on earth. Let us seek God's will and rejoice in being participants of bringing God's kingdom here on earth.

God bless,  
Pastor Barbara