

# SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



## Wednesday Feb 21st, for the 2nd Sunday of Lent

**OPENING PRAYER:** God, our Father, you have chosen us to be your sons and daughters. You love us even more than Abraham loved Isaac. You cherish us as you cherish your beloved Son. Though we do not deserve it, we rejoice in your love. Help us to trust in that love and to find more ways to share your love with others. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

## READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL according to Mark

### Mark 9:2-10

The Transfiguration of Jesus.:

2 After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves.<sup>b</sup> And he was transfigured before them, 3 and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.

4 Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus.

5: Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

6 He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified.

7 Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them;: then from the cloud came a voice, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.”

8 Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

The Coming of Elijah.\*

9 As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead.<sup>ε</sup>

10 So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

11<sup>d</sup> Then they asked him, “Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”

12 He told them, “Elijah will indeed come first and restore all things, yet how is it written regarding the Son of Man that he must suffer greatly and be treated with contempt?

13 But I tell you that Elijah has come and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him.”<sup>ε</sup>

## Notes

[9:1] There are some standing...come in power: understood by some to refer to the establishment by God’s power of his kingdom on earth in and through the church; more likely, as understood by others, a reference to the imminent parousia.

\* [9:2–8] Mark and [Mt 17:1](#) place the transfiguration of Jesus six days after the first prediction of his passion and death and his instruction to the disciples on the doctrine of the cross; [Lk 9:28](#) has “about eight days.” Thus the transfiguration counterbalances the prediction of the passion by affording certain of the disciples insight into the divine glory that Jesus possessed. His glory will overcome his death and that of his disciples; cf. [2 Cor 3:18](#); [2 Pt 1:16–19](#). The heavenly voice ([Mk 9:7](#)) prepares the disciples to understand that in the divine plan Jesus must die ignominiously before his messianic glory is made manifest; cf. [Lk 24:25–27](#). See further the note on [Mt 17:1–8](#).

\* [9:5] Moses and Elijah represent, respectively, law and prophecy in the Old Testament and are linked to Mount Sinai; cf. [Ex 19:16–20:17](#); [1 Kgs 19:2, 8–14](#). They now appear with Jesus as witnesses to the fulfillment of the law and the prophets taking place in the person of Jesus as he appears in glory.

\* [9:7] A cloud came, casting a shadow over them: even the disciples enter into the mystery of his glorification. In the Old Testament the cloud covered the meeting tent, indicating the Lord’s presence in the midst of his people ([Ex](#)

[40:34–35](#)) and came to rest upon the temple in Jerusalem at the time of its dedication ([1 Kgs 8:10](#)).

\* [\[9:9–13\]](#) At the transfiguration of Jesus his disciples had seen Elijah. They were perplexed because, according to the rabbinical interpretation of [Mal 3:23–24](#), Elijah was to come first. Jesus' response shows that Elijah has come, in the person of John the Baptist, to prepare for the day of the Lord. Jesus must suffer greatly and be treated with contempt ([Mk 9:12](#)) like the Baptist ([Mk 9:13](#)); cf. [Mk 6:17–29](#).

## QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. Share with the group or person next to you what spoke to you most in the Gospel. With this first question, try to refrain from commenting on what others said. Just share what spoke to you and then move on to the next person.
2. Share with the group or person next to you what spoke to you most in the Gospel. With this first question, try to refrain from commenting on what others said. Just share what spoke to you and then move on to the next person.
3. Name one thing today's Gospel says to us that we disciples of Jesus need to heed and act on.

## Commentary

In this mystical and awe-filled event, Jesus and his three apostles experience the glory of God. They are, as it were, transported into another reality. The references to Jesus' face "dazzling as the sun" and his clothes "radiant as light" are reminiscent of Old Testament theophanies (appearances of God). The presence of Moses and Elijah symbolizes "the Law" (given to Moses) and "the Prophets." In Jesus, both converge and are

brought to fulfillment. The response of the apostles is one of incredible joy and holy terror. They are so over-awed that they do not want to leave: "Let us make three tents." But they are also overcome with fear. Spiritual theologians tells us that the "experience of the holy" can cause us to be overjoyed and terrified at the same time. Sometimes that which we most deeply desire, e.g., intimacy with God or another, may also be most terrifying to us. We are afraid of losing ourselves to another. The heavenly voice tells the apostles to listen to Jesus for he is God's anointed Messiah. In the dark days ahead, this mountaintop experience will sustain both Jesus and the apostles. Remember the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the night before he died: "We have some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter now. Because I have been to the mountaintop ... mine eyes have seen the glory of the Lord."

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Room 5 and Zoom

Wednesday, Feb 21 6:30 – 7:30pm

Weekly on Wednesday

Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting

Time: Feb 21, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZ0lduisqD0sE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPq/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-iwpiFdj\\_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZ0lduisqD0sE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPq/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-iwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89811466699?pwd=UVdFVmo1SmJObUJqc3VqcytQOTdpQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 1146 6699

Passcode: 284618