

The Transfiguration of Our Lord
 Year of the Lord 2019
 Luke 9

**“Holy Spirit, Light Divine, shine upon this heart of mine;
 Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day!”
 “Let me see my Savior’s face; let me all HIS beauties trace!
 Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to
 Thee!”**

Luke 9:28–3628Now about eight days after these sayings [Jesus] took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

29And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. 30And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, 31who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. 32Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. 33And as the men were parting from him, **Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said.** 34As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. 35And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” **36And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.** And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

In the Name of Jesus:

“36And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.” My dear ones—come along with your poor pastor who has had rich teachers of the languages in which the Holy Spirit wrapped up the Gospel! “36And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.” Ah...

We may MILK that word! ‘Alone; ONLY; JUST Jesus! Not really a big deal!!!!---according to any MAN.’ Left there with Peter, James and John was NOT the scary cloud; nor the voice without a body; nor Elijah, last seen in the whirlwind that is God;

nor Moses, last seen on Mount Nebo, then he died. Jesus alone; Jesus only; JUST Jesus!

It was JUST JESUS who prayed for His executioners: ³⁴ And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” OH-HO! They DON’T KNOW what they are doing? Then, Jesus, what about the following words?!!! “And they cast lots to divide his garments.”¹

Soldier-talk: ‘He won’t need those clothes anymore. WE will make sure of THAT!’

Jesus-talk: ‘Nothing EASIER, more NATURAL to pass over, to forget, to forgive! Hear me, dear Father, for THEIR sake! This is just a slip-up, a one-off, not that big of a deal!’

(That’s the same way you and I pray, dear ones, when the next person just about tortures US to death, nicht wahr? Taking our parking place? Or spot in line? Not thinking of us 24/7, and PROVING IT?!!! Calm down, Paul! Calm down! We’re safe with God as long as what we have going with God is just Jesus!)

It was NOT MOSES—EXCUSING Peter and his words here: ‘not knowing what he said.’ SAME WORD used to intercede for those who nailed up the Holy One on the cross of pain and shame and OUR eternal REST! ‘Oh, these soldiers, practiced in the art of killing, who have been calling me King of the Jews all morning as they beat me, and now expertly pained me and chained me to this cross! Oh, they’re not REALLY INTO all of this! They don’t KNOW what they’re doing! Neither did Peter know what HE was doing when HE denied me with finality. That’s NOT what PETER is all about!’

MOSES had one job: to PIN DOWN each man, woman, child, sinner, UNDER...HIS...SINS! Moses did that OUTSIDE the promised land—the SUPPOSED land of REST! Elijah pinned down the people, all the way up to king and queen!—with the Law of Moses. INSIDE the supposed land of REST—Elijah could know no rest. Why? Because of what the LAW HAS PROVEN

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 23:34). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

itself too weak to do! To bring life; to make men sing—at least a DIFFERENT and NEW SONG that is NOT about OUR EFFORTS, or the LACK of effort I see all around.

Only IN-THE-FLESH-GOD-AND-KING-JESUS, Mary's Boy, Crucifiable, Ignore-able, Despise-ready, Mock-able; only Jesus, JUST SIMPLE JESUS, ALONE, removes all weight and burden so much from us, that the weight and burden of every other man is nothing at all! The cloud cannot give us that, nor the booming voice, nor Moses, nor Elijah, nor the Law.

This is why the word 'EXODUS' in the reading. They translate it as 'departure.' It's the Greek word, EXODUS; same as used of the parade out of Egypt led by Moses.

We are in Egypt, my dear ones! In the land of fleshpots and money and luxuries and curiosities and endless enticements and allurements to catch our eyes and minds and hearts and hands and lives! NEW Moses is leading us OUT!

Not by the slaughter of the firstborn of all those 'OTHER' people, not of 'OUR tribe!' But by His own slaughter. To save His slaughterers; and those who BOASTED of belonging to HIS TRIBE: Peter, James, John. And you; and me too!

Which is why 'JUST-JESUS' was wrapped in baby clothes, helpless and poor, with no proper bed. Why he was laid in a stranger's tomb. Why He appeared only to those who never matter to Egypt here!

And why HEAVEN'S supreme confidence rests in a washing which doesn't really get us all that clean! Except that the authority of 'JUST-JESUS' SEZ that we are clean!

And to strengthen us on our Exodus to our REST, He feeds us with manna from heaven. Again, nothing Egypt will ever beat down the doors to take themselves! Nor the Blood of the Lamb for forgiveness, life and salvation.

Why, my dear ones, does all the painful stuff, the lonely stuff, the insulting stuff, happen to you, despite your exalted status as children of God? ‘Just-Jesus’ on that mountain; ‘Just-Jesus’ taken down from the cross by a man looking for the kingdom of God; He makes it clear! This is the way OUT! The way that leads to REST!

Our Loving Father—now, no floating, booming voice!—is gently pulling our hands away from all that hurts us: our idols! But did you ever try to pull away a baby’s fingers from danger; and fear hurting those little fingers?

My grandson, Samuel Paul, was here for a few hours. And I took comfort of my acceptance by God above, as I watched groups of educated, accomplished, bright people, turn into gibbering and jabbering fools, just to make him smile. (Guess who fool number ONE was?!) And how large a staff does that child need to check on and push and smell his diapers, to make sure things are running smoothly?

Take THAT image as the image of the Holy Spirit of Jesus, checking and pushing and smelling how things are going with you, for certain!

Luke 16:16; more Jesus-talk; JUST-Jesus talk:

The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the gospel of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it!

There y’ go, my dearies! Moses and Elijah—done with! Cloudy-booming God—evaporated!

And now, the kingdom of God can ONLY be taken by people whose hand is stamped, forehead too, with one BOAST: ‘VIOLENT!’ ‘SINNER!’ ‘LAWLESS!’

And we're IN, with the God we cannot see, but Who is ONLY happy when we order Him about, as my grandson, Samuel Paul, turned over a dozen people when he was here.

Because Who is going to keep you OUT of the Kingdom of God?! The KING?!! C'mon! The King? That's JUST-JESUS!

And I say to you, the Kingdom of Heaven is wrapped around YOU in the Name of that King, Jesus. Amen.