



Sunday Teaching Guide

Epiphany, Week 6

February 11, 2024

Bible Texts

- Mark 9:2-8
- Exodus 3:1-10
- Exodus 34:29-32
- Deuteronomy 18:15-16
- 1 Kings 19:1-6
- 1 Kings 19:7-14
- Micah 6:8
- Matthew 22:37-40

Important Terms

- Epiphany: an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure

Sermon Notes

- The Hebrew scriptures were full of stories of mountaintop experiences. It seemed like whenever one of the religious leaders wanted to experience God's presence, they would go up a mountain. This pattern begins in the book of Exodus with Moses going up Mount Sinai to receive the tablets that had the Ten Commandments written on them. Another story from the Hebrew scriptures tells of Elijah who escapes to a mountaintop and finds God in the quietness of the mountaintop.
- In the New Testament, Jesus takes some of his disciples with him up a mountain and Elijah and Moses appear to speak with Jesus. The disciples want to build tents or temples for the three of them. Jesus tells his disciples that they should not live the way that they had in the past and the way that many in the rest of the world live. He tells them to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly.
- We should be a people who explore the stories of the people of God as, through their faith and their lives, God revealed to them what he was doing in this world. We should be people who recognize the mountaintop experiences where God's spirit is moving in holy moments that should be remembered and cherished. We should be people called to live holy lives who act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

Reflection Questions

- What does it mean to be transformed?
- What's your experience with being on mountaintops? Have you ever hiked up a mountain, even a small one? If so, what was it like upon reaching the top?
- Why do you think some humans have had a tendency to climb mountains? What are some reasons that some might climb?
- Why do you think the disciples wanted to stay on the mountain?
- Why do you think Jesus did not want the disciples to stay on the mountain and built a tent or temple for the three religious leaders? What is the harm?
- How can you keep reminders of mountaintop experiences with you in your everyday life?

Prayer for the Week

- Holy God, you have revealed the glory of your love in Jesus Christ, and have given us a share in your Spirit. May we who listen to Christ follow faithfully, and, in the dark places where you send us, reveal the light of your gospel. Amen.

Additional Readings

- Psalm 50:1-6
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-6