

## **“A Transfigured You” Transfiguration Sunday 3-6-11**

There's a story of a magician doing wonderful magic tricks aboard a cruise ship. Every night, as the magician did something special, the Captain's pet parrot would call out; "He's a phony" "Booo" "That's no trick." This happened night after night until a sudden storm arose and the cruise ship sunk, leaving the magician and the parrot on the same lifeboat. For several days they just glared at each other until finally the parrot said, "O.K. I give up. What did you do with the ship?" Talk about a change in attitude, huh?

Many fairy tales talk of change. Remember the story of Cinderella with this young lady living in poverty who suddenly became a princess. A pumpkin became her carriage. Mice became her horses for the carriage. She was now a new person. People can be transformed too. A new job or a new name can be life-changing. For instance, did you ever see Francis Gum in a movie? How about Archibald Leach or Marion Morrison in a film? These people changed their names and their lives were transformed into stardom? Francis Gum became Judy Garland. Archibald Leach was Cary Grant and Marion Morrison became the Duke, John Wayne. Can't imagine a movie like "True Grit" starring a guy named Marion Morrison, huh?

When the disciples saw the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain, they were able to see exactly Who He was; the Son of God, the Savior of the world and they didn't understand either. This carpenter Who walked with them for three years could now be seen as He would be seen in heaven; in all of His glory and majesty. This was the Son of God Who would soon die on the cross and rise from the dead for the forgiveness of their sins. The Risen Lord would transfigure their lives so much that they would be willing to die for their faith. Big time changes!

Now on this Transfiguration Sunday as we see the change in Jesus, does He see a change in us? Are you the same old disciple that you were a year ago? Has Jesus transfigured your life through faith in His death and resurrection so others see you shine for Him? It has been said that if you were taken to court and accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? I hope so! That means that the Transfigured Lord has transfigured you!

The Christian life should be one of constant Transfiguration, change, and growth. If we're in a rut, stagnating, smelly, and rotting away in sin and the same old, same old; something is missing. Jesus has given us His Word, prayer, worship, Holy Communion, Baptism, and Christian fellowship for the Holy Spirit to use so we will grow. Peter's last words to his people in 2 Peter 3 were to "grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Corinthians 5 tells us that "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come." Are you a new person in Jesus? If not, why not?

Because God Is Good. . . All The Time, He wants to see a new you, transfigured and growing and shining with a faith others can see. Imagine your family and friends seeing you as a convicted Christian! Amen.. .pastor matthews