

LISTEN TO HIM

Transfiguration Sunday

Matthew 17:1-9 & 2 Peter 1:16-21

BIG IDEA

When God says “Listen to him,” He is calling us to listen to the crucified Messiah and to let His cross-shaped way of life define what it means to follow Jesus.

1. Listening Requires Context

- Hearing words ≠ truly listening.
- The Transfiguration is not a random miracle.
- God’s command “Listen to him” must be understood in light of Jesus’ teaching about the cross.

Key Question:

→ What expectations shape how I hear Jesus?

2. Right Confession, Wrong Expectations

(Matthew 16:13-20)

- Peter confesses Jesus as Messiah.
- He has the right title...
- ...but the wrong understanding.
- Peter expects power and victory.

Truth: You can believe the right things about Jesus and still misunderstand His mission.

3. The Shock of the Cross

(Matthew 16:21-28)

- Jesus predicts suffering and death.
- Peter rebukes Jesus.
- Jesus calls disciples to:
 - deny self
 - take up the cross
 - follow Him

Truth: If the Messiah's path is the cross, the disciple's path cannot be comfort-centered.

4. The Transfiguration

(Matthew 17:1-8)

- Happens six days after Jesus speaks about the cross.
- Moses & Elijah affirm Jesus as fulfillment of Scripture.
- Peter wants to stay on the mountain.
- God interrupts:

“This is my Son... Listen to him.”

Meaning:

Listening means trusting Jesus' definition of glory, not ours.

5. Listening to a Crucified King

“Listen to him” = Cross-shaped living

Cruciformity:

- Self-giving love
- Humility over power
- Service over status

Listening to Jesus reshapes:

- relationships
- speech
- leadership
- money
- daily faithfulness

Truth: A cruciform life is a thousand small deaths.

6. Coming Down the Mountain

(Matthew 17:9; 2 Peter 1:16-21)

- The Transfiguration confirmed the cross, it didn't replace it.
- Peter later calls it a light shining in dark places.
- Mountaintop moments prepare us for real life.

Truth: Glory sends us back into the world with clarity.

7. Ordinary Cross-Shaped Faithfulness

Listening to Jesus looks like:

- forgiving instead of punishing
- serving instead of seeking attention
- staying faithful instead of escaping
- giving instead of grasping
- speaking truth with gentleness

CONCLUSION

- Jesus is the beloved Son.
- His glory goes through the cross.
- The Father's command still stands:

Listen to Him.

Take up your cross.

Follow Him.

The way of the cross is not the loss of life, it is the path to it.