



Wednesday Prayer

Transfiguration of Our Lord – New Eyes

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

Matthew 17:1-5

Poor Peter. Sometimes he just doesn't get it. Their Savior asks Peter, James, and John to go for a walk, leaving the other disciples to hold down the fort. Jesus holds them in high regard, and he wants the three to witness some things. The disciples see Jesus transfigured, his face shining, his clothing turning sparkling white. Then suddenly Moses and Elijah appear and begin talking to Jesus. Good old Peter jumps right in and says, “Hey, Jesus, let's make dwellings for you and the prophets, and we'll stay here forever!” Forget the other nine disciples waiting back in town. No, he wants what he's seeing to last eternally! But Peter gets yanked back to reality. A booming voice signals God's approval of Jesus' ministry and the voice then says simply, “*Listen to him!*”

Jesus instructs the disciples *and us* to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly” with him (Micah 6:8). Although God wants us to pray, it's in our actions that we do, love and walk. “How can we do that?” you may ask. “I don't personally *know* anyone who's been sexually exploited or trafficked.” Don't be so sure, as we know there are many barriers to a person seeking help or sharing their experience. If we want to end sexual exploitation and trafficking, every day we must be aware. Are you talking with young people as a teacher, parent, grandparent about online safety measures and how they can get support if needed? Does a young person you used to connect with no longer even make eye contact? Do you see anything suspicious when in public such as an older man approaching youth in a way that doesn't seem natural or appropriate? Signs of physical abuse in youngsters? Be a “concerned bystander,” while also staying safe yourself. We can *all* do our part to help stop these horrific crimes against children. Visit the [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](https://www.nccmenc.org/) for online and in-person exploitation support and many more resources to keep children safe.

Holy Spirit, give us “new eyes” so we can see and prevent evil happening around us. Help us go beyond praying to also become change agents in our communities. Strengthen our faith while showing us ways to support youth. Amen.

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