

Lesson 2 – The transfiguration of Jesus

Key terms:

Transfiguration

The event in Mark's Gospel where Jesus' clothes are described as glowing dazzling white

Rabbi

A Jewish teacher

Mystical experience

A religious event where people see and feel things that create a sense of awe and fascination

Transfiguration of Jesus

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Read the story above and answer the questions below.

1. Which disciples did Jesus take with him?
2. Jesus' clothes became whiter than-what?
3. Who appeared to Jesus?
4. What overshadowed them?
5. What did the voice from heaven say?
6. In which other story do we see God speaking to Jesus?
7. What instructions did Jesus give to the disciples?
8. When were the disciples allowed to tell what they had seen?

Challenge:

1. What signs of the presence of God are there in the transfiguration?
2. Why do you think the message of God at the Baptism is different from the message at the transfiguration?

For Christians the transfiguration is a 'mystical experience' that defies scientific explanation. However, can you think of any other explanations which could be put forward to help understand what happened at the transfiguration? Write these down below.

Explain two ways in which St Mark's account of the transfiguration of Jesus is important for Christians today. You must refer to **St Mark's Gospel** in your answer. [5 marks]

Study tip

Think about the following titles of Jesus

1. Son of God – how is this shown in the story
2. Messiah – who's appearance confirms Jesus is the Messiah
 - How is the divine nature of Jesus shown and what does it signify

Structure

One way the account of the transfiguration in St Marks Gospel is important to Christians today...

This means...

The second way the account of the transfiguration in St Marks Gospel is important to Christians today...

A quote from the story to support this is...

This means...