

The Faith of Our Fathers

There are many reasons why Moses and Elijah appeared with Our Lord when He is transfigured. First, the multitudes claimed that Jesus was Elijah or another prophet; so He brings these chief Prophets so others might see the difference between the servants and their Lord. Second, the Jews charged Jesus transgressing against the Law and usurping the glory of the Father; so He brings forward Moses who gave the Law, and Elijah who was zealous for the glory of God. Third, by producing Moses who was dead and Elias who had not yet experienced death, Jesus shows He has power over life and death. Fourth, Our Lord wishes to show the glory of His cross, and thus soothe the disciples who feared His death; so He brings forward both Moses and Elijah, who had willingly stood before tyrants and exposed themselves to death for God's sake. Finally, Our Lord brings Moses and Elijah forward so that the disciples might be as meek as Moses and zealous as Elijah. (St John Chrysostom) ❧❧❧

“The great reason for the Transfiguration of Our Lord is to remove the scandal of the cross from the hearts of His disciples. Our Lord wishes to prevent the humiliation of His voluntary suffering from disturbing the faith of those who had witnessed the surpassing glory that lay concealed. At the same time, the whole Body of Christ is led to understand the kind of transformation that every believer will receive as His gift. The members of the Body of Christ are to look forward to a share in that glory which first blazed out in Christ their head.” (St. Leo the Great) ❧❧❧

The Lord has not commanded you to fly up to heaven to stare at what He does there with His angels, but this is His command: “This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him. In Him I have come down to you, so that you can see Me and hear Me, and touch Me. There and nowhere else shall all find Me, who desire Me and long to be free from their sins and saved.” On this word we should immediately seize, and say: “Here God Himself speaks.” I will follow Him and listen to no other word or preaching, and neither learn nor know anything else about God. (Blessed Martin Luther) ❧❧❧

For the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord. These excerpts are intended as meditative pieces for the Day's pericopes. They have been edited and abridged for style, sense and space.

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