

## Day 26

9.2-32

It was noted that at Jesus' baptism Mark cast him in the role of a new Moses leading a new Exodus. He does the same here.

The opening "after six days" is an allusion to the time Moses spent on Mount Sinai in preparation for God giving the tablets of the law (Exod 24.15-16). Like Moses (Exod 24.13), Jesus takes only his three closest disciples. And his transfiguration, whereby his clothes became radiant, recalls the shining of Moses' face after talking with God (Exod 34.29). Finally, like Aaron and the people of Israel (Exod 34.30), Peter, James and John were terrified by the glory of the Lord.



But he is not only "the prophet like Moses" (Deut 18.15, 18) but one *greater* than Moses. Moses, with Elijah, is in attendance upon Jesus. When the voice from heaven speaks, it repeats the words spoken to Jesus at his baptism (1.11), "this is my beloved Son", concluding with Moses' words in Deut 18.15, "it is to him you shall listen."

When the cloud lifts and they are alone with Jesus he charges them to tell no one what they have seen. As when they will accompany him to Gethsemane, they are there primarily for Jesus' sake, not their own. His 'exodus' from this world is close at hand and weighing heavily upon him. The Transfiguration is his Father's way of strengthening him for the Passion ahead, reminding him of his favour (1.11) and the glory set before him (cf. Heb 12.2.) The disciples have been granted a glimpse of his glory which would have strengthened them too, had they only understood its significance. One day they will, but only (as Jesus knows) after the resurrection (see 2 Peter 1.16ff.)

Meanwhile, at the foot of the mountain, a spiritual battle has been raging, with Satan doing his best to ensure that the glory of Jesus is overshadowed by his own deepest darkness. He seeks to destroy a child, discredit Jesus' disciples, credit the scribes, and rob a desperate father of his faith. Only Jesus can defeat him and restore his mission. It is a grim foreshadowing of the mission Jesus has yet to complete, and the evil he must still overcome.

? How has God strengthened you through difficult times?



Gracious Father, I acknowledge that there is much in this world that I do not understand, particularly the suffering of the innocent. Help me to run with endurance the race set before me, looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, in whose name I pray. Amen.