

MATTHEW 17:1-9.

JESUS IS REVEALED AS GOD'S SON OUR KING AND SAVIOUR.

Let us pray:

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight O' LORD, my strength and My Redeemer amen.

Today in our walks as Christian calls by God through the son is an immeasurable graceful day for my family, Rachel, Michael, Abraham, Sarah, and Elizabeth, Israel Mayen and for us all as St. Paul's Christ community. Indeed, it is a great honour and privilege to be able to share God's word in the life of his people.

In today gospel reading in Matthew's chapter 17:1-9, we heard Jesus took with him his three disciples: peter, James and John on the mountain in order to witness his transfiguration or transformation by his Father. The word transfiguration in Greek language means to be change in constitution or physical form like a caterpillar into butterfly; this is where we get the word metamorphosed from.

But there is a significant of our own transfiguration or transformation that is demonstrates to us, as it was to Jesus three disciples that Jesus is the Son of

God who is more than a teacher, leader, healer, and king. Jesus is the glorious, holy, sovereign, pre-eminent, beloved Son of God who was incarnate as fully God and man for our salvation. We as God's people we need to be faithful and follow Jesus, believing in him and sharing in building up his church. We have seen Jesus choosing three mates or friends for God's mission.

**Why?** What is significant about these trio's disciples, I think Jesus was applying the teaching of Law both in the Old and New Testament (Deut 17:6) and New Testament (Matt 18:16) which state that official testimony is "established by the evidence of two or three witnesses". So here, we have truly seen an account coming from three people as eyewitnesses during Jesus transfiguration. In fact, in 2 Peter 1:16 Peter writes later in the second reading of Epistles Peter's affirmation about the transfiguration, saying, "We were eyewitnesses of his majesty". So that is why I think three people matters in this context.

Now I want us to turn our attention from us being transfigured or change by Jesus because that is why he came to be God Immanuel, God with us, and let us consider the significant of Jesus and his three friends or mates whom he chose and love for God mission. Right here in this Holy building in which we worship and serve God Almighty, there are willing to take God's call like those 3, 4 or 400 more such people in the lives our of church community.

I strongly believe the scene set by Matthew's gospel this morning matches in the way in which our parish here at St. Paul's Anglican Church operates. For example, over the last century, we have seen on the leadership board four prominent positions, namely the priest or Rector in charge and his three warden's, to name a few elected by God people to serve as stewards in the house of God. **Wow! Wow!** We as church community delegate these people and charge them to commit and care for our spiritual nourishment, emotional support, and church building. We trust and love these people and promise to support them as they plan for the well-being of our community. Like Jesus and his three disciples who were being loved and chosen ready on a mission for God's people.

**Today on the 26 of February 2017**, we as church community will sit in our church hall not on the mountain as Peter suggested it so, but be present with God's people, and trusting in our election of this year team which will comprises of many administrators, but we will first elect our warden's and councillors on board as our leaders not because they are smart or clever but because God love all people no matter whether they are clever, rich or incapable.

What we expect from this team of leaders is great, we want them to listen, love and be kind to us. But as people being led, we also, need to listen to them, love and be kind to them as well, because we hear this morning in the gospel God telling the disciples that, **“This is my Son, whom I love, with him I am well please, listen to him”**. As God’s people we are all encourage to listen to Jesus attentively and via versa to one another in unity and faithfulness.

This is ultimate command from God. the people we will be choosing will be expected to imitate God’s and listen to us as we listen to them because we are the body of Christ whom he has love and lay down his life for. We are urged to behave differently as mature Christian and as light on the mountain of God, which is his church community.

Jesus wants us all to be fruitful in our journey of faith. Jesus wants us to see his glory as we seek others to see his own glory from us too. because Jesus is glorify for us and for our salvation as it is written in the gospel of John 1:14, **“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth”**. Jesus is our King of King and Lord of Lord who has died, rose and is coming back to take us all home to our eternal present of His Father, this is a wonderful truth, therefore, we are all going to be rewarded with eternal life and forever be with our God, are you not ready! I hope we are not afraid to share in the grace of

Christ and him becoming man in our image, God with us today and throughout to the end of time.

Finally, we must never forget that Jesus is our King of glory and saviour, therefore, we must put our trust and faith in Jesus Christ as God's redeemed people. We should never panic of the nature of responsibility given to us or be afraid to trust each other faithfully in our service toward one another.

our leaders needs that trustfully, transparent relationship and the congregation needs that trustful and collegial relationship, because this is the commandments proceeding from God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. As beloved people, let us Look to the living Word of God and let us live by grace and faith in Jesus our Redeemer and Strength, in the name of God, Son and Holy Spirit Amen.

