

# COLLOQUIES with Pastor Brian

## Greater Things Are Coming!

**T**ransfiguration! It happens each year in the rhythm of the worship calendar and yet it always surprises me. Makes sense, because transfiguration is really by definition a surprise. When we go to our scriptures in Matthew 17, we find Jesus and some disciples out on a day hike.

Somewhere on the mountain, Jesus is transfigured, seemingly without warning. The scripture says his clothing changed to light, his face **SHINES LIKE THE SUN** and then if that wasn't enough, two other amazing historical bible personalities who have been long gone show up to talk to Jesus. I'm honestly amazed the disciples didn't pass away from amazement right there.

But wait, there's more. Then the voice of God shows up and for the second time in the Gospel of Matthew, God says "This is my son. I am really happy with him. Listen to him!"

Have any of you heard the voice of God before? Did any of you have a fearful experience of it?

The disciples were freaked out and have had enough of unexpected events, each one overshadowing the previous. They fall to the ground, completely come undone until Jesus touches them... and they look up... and no one is around. What's worse, Jesus tells them to keep this event secret UNTIL the Son of Man is Raised from the Dead... whatever THAT means.

Transfiguration isn't a 'safe' proposition and it isn't expected. You can even know it is coming, but honestly, nothing prepares you for it.

This last week, a very persistent and wise young lady showed up at our Administrative / Support Ministries meeting. We've seen her in worship with her mom; she's been talking with me about becoming fully certified in running a Childcare program. She's attended meetings in Carlton for learning how to open a childcare facility AND, she was once a student of our own Professor Amanda Zbacnik. But even knowing all that, I was surprised to see her at our meeting and for her to ask the ministry "Do you REALLY want to go ahead with opening a Child Care Center... by this August?"

OK, so her face was smiling but not shining like the sun. A heavenly voice didn't come from the ceiling and say, "This is my congregation. I really like them." No dead or long-lost prophets were in the room, though there was a lot of church history and wisdom there to talk about what might be needed going forward. But I still heard and thought to myself "Think you're surprised now; wait until you see what else is coming, Brian!" And, that is how Transfiguration works.

Jesus was changed in an instant, giving us a foretaste of what was to come. I think we're in that place now. Congregation, it might have been a day hike, but hold on. Greater things are coming! And best of all, God is behind whatever we face going onward. Thanks be to God!

With love and trembling,

Pastor Brian

