

**“No Comparison” – Pr Jim Sprengle – Transfiguration of Our Lord
February 27, 2022**

- I. **Hebrews 3:3** – “For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself.”
- II. **The story of Moses is quite amazing...**
 - a. Sure, we know the Sunday School version of him being born in Egypt in a Hebrew slave family.
 - i. Pharaoh wanted to kill all the male newborn babies in order to keep their population down... so Moses’ mother put him in a floating basket in the Nile River... only to be found by the Pharaoh’s daughter.
 - ii. Raised up with royalty, Moses ends up murdering a guard and running away.
 - iii. After 40 years, God decides to use Moses as His instrument to free the Hebrew people from Egypt.
 - b. Now, here are a few things that make Moses different than anyone else...
 - i. God had Moses alone come to the top of Mt Sinai to receive instructions for building the tabernacle and the 10 Commandments (Exodus 24:15ff) where he stayed with God for 40 days and nights.
 - ii. When the tent of meeting was outside the camp, God’s presence would come down in a pillar of cloud and rest on it while Moses went inside to talk to God. (Exodus 33:9-11) – and it even says, “Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.” (Ex 33:11)
 - iii. One time Moses’ older sister and brother (Moses was the youngest child) spoke out against him.
 1. The Lord heard it and told Aaron and Miriam to report to the tent of meeting... where God came down in a pillar of cloud and said, “⁶Hear My words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. ⁷ Not so with My servant Moses. He is faithful in all My house. ⁸ With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?” (Numbers 12:6-8)
 2. God actually stuck up for Moses because he was that important
 - iv. God also allowed Moses to see His partial glory – in Exodus 33 God has Moses stand in the cleft of a rock so he can catch a glimpse of God’s back (Exodus 33:17-23)
 - v. Finally, when Moses died, he was alone with God, and it says in Deuteronomy 34:5-6 that God buried him.

- c. As you can see, there is a reason that Moses is the most important prophet to the Jewish people, because he was chosen by God to do some amazing things – but also, he was a humble, righteous person as he served.
 - i. God has used no one else like He did Moses... and that alone makes him a very special prophet indeed.

III. **Our Gospel lesson has Moses playing a part in it too...**

- a. As Jesus is changed on that mountain, we are reminded of Moses up on Mt. Sinai and the Lord's glory coming down in a cloud.
- b. This time, Moses is there, but also Elijah another great prophet, and then Peter, James and John, the disciples of Jesus.
- c. There, right in their midst, Jesus transforms, and He shines brightly... Again, we are reminded of God's glory being shown to Moses, only this time no one is required to hide in the cleft of a rock.
 - i. They see the divine nature of their Savior – and live to tell the story.
 - ii. The next thing they hear is the Father's voice, and with the two witnesses of Moses and Elijah there, He says, "This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!" (Luke 9:35)
- d. Did you get that? Listen to Jesus.
 - i. Don't listen to Moses, or Elijah, or anyone else...
 - ii. There is no one greater, there is no comparison...
 - iii. Listen to Jesus.

IV. **Listening to Jesus is the heart of our lives as Christians.**

- a. I know it seems like a passive sort of thing... listening...
 - i. We envision sitting on our couch listening to music, or the TV.
 - ii. But it is this what listening means when it comes to the one greater than Moses (and all the rest)?
- b. Listening to Jesus means that He is the one place we receive the fulness of God, and not only do we hear what He says, we do it...
- c. When mom raises her voice at the kids and says, "Listen to me!!"
 - i. Does she mean that she wants the kids to line up on the couch and listen to some kind of story she's telling?
 - ii. No, she is saying, here are my instructions, now do them like I said.
- d. There is no better place to know God than knowing Jesus and listening to Him and His teaching.
- e. The struggle for us comes in many ways – because rather than the teaching of Jesus directing our lives, we often put others on that pedestal... Just like the Jews put Moses on a pedestal.
- f. I might sound like a broken record, but so many of us don't look to Jesus for their direction... rather than the Word of God and following Christ, we go our own way.
 - i. Our own way is usually something like finding out information on Google or some random Internet group chat...

- ii. Maybe it's talking with a family member or friend on what to do, but they are not Christian or have no idea what the Bible even says.
 - iii. Or, we just trust our "instincts" without considering Jesus, and dive into a situation with our best thinking.
 - g. All along, Jesus calls on us – God Himself calls on us – to listen to Him first
 - i. ...trusting that He will guide our actions to be in alignment with Him.
 - h. It's not easy by the way... because it takes considerable time and effort to know Jesus and walk in His ways.
 - i. I get the feeling that some people aren't really too interested in learning and understanding the Bible, they just try to be like Jesus.
 - ii. Do you hear the foolishness of what I just said? Trying to be like Jesus can only come from knowing what He was like in the Bible!
 - iii. Without the Word of God – the living and active source of our faith and life – we will always struggle to walk in His ways...
 - i. All our ways and sources of guidance are no comparison to Jesus and the Word.
- V. **The glory that Jesus** shows us in the Gospel today is only for a short time.
 - a. Moses and Elijah disappear, and Jesus looks normal again.
 - b. The disciples were more fully aware of who Jesus was – not a servant like Moses, but the Son of God and builder of the house.
 - c. Yet, this is the turning point in the Gospel of Luke, because from this time on, Jesus would make His way to the cross.
 - d. There would be no great chariot of fire like Elijah was brought to heaven... or a death and burial by God Himself in Moses.
 - e. No, Jesus had a different fate awaiting Him.
 - i. The cross was His destiny – the farthest thing from what we might consider "glory" and what we see in the Transfiguration.
 - ii. But that brutal death was more than just any other death... it was God, in the flesh... come to save us.
 - f. So, consider Jesus as our text says today in verse 1... there is absolutely no comparison to anyone else.
 - i. Give thanks that He is the one who built the house – or we could say the Body of Christ... and surrounded us with such a great group of people
 - ii. Give thanks that the entire Bible points to Jesus as our Savior and Redeemer – because it is a living and active part of our lives.
 - iii. Give thanks for the gifts of our faith and the Holy Spirit, given to us so that we are able to "listen to Jesus"
 - iv. And finally, give thanks for Jesus Himself – because there is no comparison. Amen