



**2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2; Luke 9:28-36**  
**Reverend Giuseppe Mattei (March 2, 2025)**

Sometimes I'd like to be bold enough to ask: "What's worship about?" or rather "*Whom* is worship about?" I am sure I would hear "About God" shut out back at me almost immediately. But then, why do some people leave the sanctuary with the sad thoughts of "I didn't get fed" or "I didn't get anything out of it"?

This prompts the follow up verification questions: "Are you sure this wasn't about you?" Jesus teaches us: "Where your treasure is, there you will find your heart."<sup>1</sup> Is God my treasure?

The Feast of the Transfiguration ought to teach us Whom it is that we worship.

Transfiguration closes the Season of Epiphany, during which we consider the revelation of Christ to the nations. Since his resurrection, disciples and non-believers alike have asked the question: "Who is this man?"

With Jesus' Transfiguration, the gospel writers want to affirm his identity quite plainly: the light emanating from Jesus is divine light. John, the fourth evangelist, tells us at the opening of his account that the Light which gives Life has come into the world.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Luke 12:34

<sup>2</sup> John 1:9-14

Luke paints a dramatic picture and wants us to admire it and not to think too hard about it. That's what the disciples did and came up via Peter with a foolish proposition: to build booths and stay there forever.

By faith we proclaim Jesus the "Beloved Son of God," "Savior," "Christ, the Son of the living God," "The Chosen Son of God," "Light of the world," and plenty more.

Talking about light: the minister glanced at a note Mrs. Jones sent him by way of an usher.

The note read, "Bill Jones, having gone to sea, his wife desires the prayers of the congregation for his safety."

But due to the dim light in the sanctuary he failed to carefully note the punctuation, and he startled the congregation by announcing, "Bill Jones, having gone to see his wife, desires the prayers of the congregation for his safety."

What difference does light make!

This little light of mine...where does it come from? Don't we owe it to the Creator? We are entrusted with it, a glimpse of the power of God, the glory of God within us. We are stewards of ...*that!* Consider the dignity, the elevation, the significance.

Jesus' transfiguration introduces resurrection: our manifest destiny. Jesus reveals his light and the light in each of us: he wants us to look ahead at what we will look like after our resurrection: spiritual beings openly revealed – we will be like he is.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> 1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 15:

But let us turn the gaze from us to Christ, from the candle to the source of light itself. Consider the brilliant light radiating from Christ. Such is the man, Jesus, before his disciples: God from God, Light from Light as we proclaim in the Nicene Creed.

Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared also in glorious splendor, and they spoke with Jesus about his forthcoming departure or “*exodus*” in the original Greek. This new exodus will redeem people from the slavery of sin and death, from hurt and tears.

At the scene, the disciples were awed, amazed, stunned, moved.

And confused: they had no idea of how to respond to what they were made part of. Or maybe that’s a natural response that all of us can sympathize with: when something of that magnitude happens to us, which requires our response, we go into a daze, overwhelmed by the news, and not really wanting to deal with it.

Or maybe, this is our condition in life: we are incapable of sustaining the gaze. We experience a momentary glimpse of the divine reality but soon we drift into our usual lethargy and self-protective patterns.<sup>4</sup> We become reluctantly aware that spiritual awakening is to lead to justice-making and compassion in the world. And this may be exhausting, especially if world events envelop us in an ever-growing dark cloud.

What do you do if fear paralyzes you? What do you do when you feel numb, exhausted, confused? What do you do if the light is being snuffed out of you? Retreat?

Luke tells us the disciples forced themselves to stay awake and so can we. The call of the prophets is for us to wake from sleep. Our spiritual journey includes a desire and willingness to remain

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<sup>4</sup> This is not reflected on by Mark and Matthew.

awake and consider and contemplate the beauty of the Lord and live without fear. Contemplation gives substance and foundation to a life of justice. Action completes prayer without which it produce exhaustion and despair.

I guess the disciples welcomed what they saw considering that eight days earlier Jesus had announced he would end up on a cross (Lk 9:18-22) and so would they (Lk 9:23-27). They knew they needed to keep their eyes open and take in the Light.

At times, I wish I were there. I wish I could see Jesus in his light with my own eyes. One day I will. But what for now? I can still soak in the Light in prayer beyond the Sunday morning hour. I can still spend time with Jesus by reading and studying the Bible. I can still allow the Spirit of Jesus to take hold of me, change my heart according to the will of God, mold me into a humble, obedient life and remain faithful.

What about you? Do you own a Bible? Do you read and study it? Do you find solace and inspiration in it, and let it illuminate the path you travel?

God declares Jesus, who speaks with Moses and Elijah, i.e. the Law and the Prophets, as the Chosen One. And then God commands: “Listen to him.” Do we? What are we to do with the immigrant and the refugee, the alien who lives in our midst? Do our social policies reflect concern for the most vulnerable?<sup>5</sup> Are we “imitators of God?”<sup>6</sup>

This journey is ongoing, filled with challenges and revelations. Let us strive to live out the principles of justice, compassion,

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<sup>5</sup> Exodus 22:21-27; 23:1-6; Leviticus 23:22

<sup>6</sup> Ephesians 5:1-2

and love that Christ so magnificently embodied. He is our light and our salvation.

Let us adore and worship him, who alone is holy. Let that light of Christ wash over us and strengthen us. Amen.