

## **The Lord Revealed**

**Intro.** When responding to danger or enemies, some super heroes change their appearance or identity from being “ordinary” to being “super.” Think of Superman/Clark Kent. They do not reveal themselves to most people. Only after a long time did Superman reveal his identity to Lois Lane. Only Alfred, the family butler, knows that Bruce Wayne is Batman. Other super heroes include Wonder Woman/Diana Prince, Spiderman/Peter Parker and Captain Marvel/Carol Danvers. [Youth Group]

**I.** In the scripture prior to today’s gospel, the Lord asked the disciples what people were saying about him. He didn’t want the *gossip*; specifically he wanted to know if people knew who he was, his identity. The common talk said he was a powerful prophet, maybe Elijah returned from the dead. Then

he asked the disciples what *they* thought and only Peter blurted out, “You are the messiah.” Now, eight days later the Lord took Peter, James and John on a kind of “field trip.” How did *they* get so lucky! Why not all twelve? He called them first so it’s possible the Lord considered them close friends. Another possibility is because it’s hard enough for *three* to keep a secret, much less *twelve*. These same three are with the Lord at another important time. The three disciples didn’t tell the others what they saw and heard. Who would believe them anyway? How could they explain seeing Moses and Elijah risen from the dead? Luke tells us while he was in prayer the Lord’s face changed in appearance and his clothes became brilliantly white. Maybe it’s like when someone falls in love. Her or his friends can tell something is different; their faces have a “glow.”

Or when a couple discover they are going to have a baby; there is a difference about them, a joy that shines out. The change in the Lord's appearance showed the disciples more of his true identity as the Son of God. He wanted them to understand *who he was*. The Lord was planning ahead. John, James and Peter would remember this moment and encourage the other disciples not to despair when the Lord was arrested and crucified. They would share this vision.

**Concl.** It might be nice if the Lord would do that for us; take *us* to the mountain; show *us* the future or explain why stuff happens. I think he has given us moments of revelation. Sometimes we are aware of it or we might be so overcome with what's happening in our lives we miss it. Looking back, it can be much easier to recognize these moments.

I have not had an experience when God revealed the future. But I have had several experiences of a sudden insight from God; kind like a light coming on and I saw things in a whole different way. Most of us have. When we have one of those “mountaintop” moments, our response can be the same as Peter: Let’s build a house and stay. But we can’t. When we receive a revelation in faith it is first for our encouragement and then we are to take the vision down the mountain to others who need it. The Lord’s identity isn’t secret. He reveals himself to his friends.

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