

June 19, 2022 Vicky Cooper, for CE Sunday

SCRIPTURE: Luke 9:28-36

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” —not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

SERMON: “Luke and Covenant Studies” Vicky Cooper

The Luke study that our church held this year was excellent because it taught me a lot of things about the life of Christ from Luke’s perspective. It connected me to the Old Testament. Luke connects to the Old Testament in many references. And important points of Luke were care for the sick and the poor and the less fortunate, the roles of women in Jesus’ ministry, and Jesus’ life leading up to his crucifixion and resurrection, his relationship to his disciples, and all the healings that went on.

This transfiguration is a key point in the whole book, and is one of my favorite passages for many reasons. There’s Elijah and Moses up there with Christ on the mountaintop, and Christ has just told his disciples before that about his death and resurrection. And here Christ now is transformed into a heavenly being, and it’s like a meeting of heaven and earth, transferring the law represented by Moses and the prophets represented by Elijah to the new covenant in Christ. God says “Listen to him,” meaning listen to Jesus.

I love the symbolism of the transfiguration because to me it means there’s more than this earthly life. Here Elijah and Moses have come back from death. To me it’s proof that there is life beyond death, and I always hold onto that because that’s very important, that there’s more than just life here on earth.

Bible studies in general have strengthened my faith and helped me have a deeper understanding of the Bible. It helped me through the pandemic and difficult times, and improved how I relate to others and to this world. Bible stories aren’t just stories to me. They help me understand myself as a human being in a very imperfect world. They keep my faith strong with hope in Christ.

One of my favorite verses from the Bible is “Be still and know that I am God,” from the Psalms. To me it means focus on God and one’s neighbor, and not on oneself. And listen to God as I understand God and have learned about God through the Bible and my Bible studies offered by

the Christian Education Board of this church. We're given study books written by Kerygma that go along with our Bible study, so we have a book to refer to each week, and of course we have the Bible to read from as well.

I'm very thankful to have had the opportunity to be a part of all these Bible studies and book groups and prayer groups. It's just been wonderful, especially during the pandemic, to keep me connected to everybody here, and to strengthen my faith so that I can be hopeful and strong through the pandemic and through my life. I plan to continue these studies, and hopefully the church will keep up these programs.