

“What We Were Created For” | Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt | February 27, 2022

Old Testament Reading: [Exodus 34:29-35](#)

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. 30 Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. 31 But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. 32 Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the Lord had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. 33 And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face.

34 Whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, 35 the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Epistle Reading: [2 Corinthians 3:7-8; 10-16; 18](#)

Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, 8 will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory?... 10 Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. 11 For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

12 Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, 13 not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. 14 But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. 15 Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. 16 But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed... 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.

Gospel Reading: [Luke 9:23-24; 28-39; 42b](#)

And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it....

Introduction

Moses veiled his face to conceal declining glory. We tend to set our hearts on fading glories instead of pursuing the face of the One for whom we were created.

Background

1. Moses's Veil

- a. To see God's face is to share intimacy with him.
- b. God's face consumes what is unclean. Because of our sin, we can't survive God's face.
- c. Moses put on his veil when the glory on his face would begin to fade. In the same way, the Mosaic Covenant would fade. We don't need to follow the old law after Christ.
- d. Like modern Austinites, the people of ancient Corinth were living for things whose glory would decline into nothingness, like wealth, power, beauty, and pleasure.

2. Jesus's Descent

- a. In the transfiguration, Peter saw the face he was created to see. He didn't want to leave.
- b. In all faces, we catch a slight glimpse of God's face. But no one can be for us what God is meant to be. There is only so much we can offer each other.
- c. Jesus descended to heal the demonized boy. And he later descended to the cross to bring us back to God.
- d. Only by descending to others and listening instead of talking can we be transfigured.

Discuss

1. What declining glories do we set our hearts on?
2. Have you ever had a spiritual experience you didn't want to leave? What happened afterward?
3. When you look at another person's face, do you recognize a glimpse of God's face, or do you consider only how to use the person or how to avoid being used by them? What about your spouse's face? Your child's? Your boss's? The person on the street experiencing homelessness?
4. What would it mean for you to descend so that God can further your transfiguration?

Conclusion/Application

Descending to the cross cost Jesus more than we can comprehend. But God raised him up to eternal glory. In the kingdom of God, the first are last and the last first. As we descend into the darkness of others' lives as servants, God will transfigure our lives to reflect his glory.

Prayer

Father, your glorious face is what we were created for. But so often we try to obscure that glory, set our hearts on what is passing away, and miss seeing your image in those around us. May your Spirit reorient our gaze and affections to you. Thank you for the glory already welling up within us and for your promise to deliver us into glory that will never fade. Amen.

28 Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. 30 And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. 32 Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. 33 And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. 34 As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. 35 And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" 36 And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

37 On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him.

38 And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. 39 And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him... But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.