

MOAGA - Coming Down the Mountain

Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

The hardest part of a hike is not _____ the mountain, but _____ the mountain. On the way up you are _____ and have a defined _____. On the way down you have sore, tight _____, as _____ works “with” you, working joints and muscles harder than before, as you are forced to leave behind the incredible _____.

Today is _____ Sunday, the day Christians remember when Jesus brought Peter, James, and John up a mountain to experience something so amazing, Peter seemed to want to stick around. (Matt 17:4)

God interrupts Peter’s plan with a _____, saying, “*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; _____ to him.*” While we should obviously ALWAYS listen to Jesus, God seems to be emphasizing the message of Matthew 16:13-28: we cannot experience the _____ of God without the _____ of Christ.

In other words, the Christian life is not a _____ life but a _____ one. We receive and experience his love and grace, yet are called to “come down the mountain” _____ for the hard work ahead.

Jesus is not only an _____ and teacher, but the One who paves the way for us to ever experience the glory of God. Peter, James and John are _____ for a reason. They _____ to tell the story because of Jesus.

Jesus is not asking us to do anything he wasn’t _____ to do himself FOR US.

Consider how distracting and _____ this event must have been for Jesus. He experiences _____ on earth only to head down the mountain to experience _____ for people that don’t deserve it.

But Jesus is _____, to his Father’s plan, to you, and to me. So, he comes down the mountain.

What about you? Jesus left the glory of _____ behind for you. He faced the _____ for you. What will you do for the sake of Christ, his _____, and the ministry of this congregation?

Lent is a call to _____ the coziness our world is selling and recommit to the challenging life we are called to lead. So, it’s a perfect time to fill out one of these cards and get to work making OA great again.

What are the cozy things in your life that tempt you to avoid the important yet challenging work God has planned for you and for all believers?

How is God calling you to reduce or eliminate, temporarily or permanently, those things/people from your lives?

What is God asking you to focus on adding to your life during this season and beyond?

What are you going to DO about it?