

By Fr. Christopher Szarke, Rector

Today we commemorate Jesus' transfiguration before Peter, John, and James, his closest disciples. The story tells us that Jesus appeared to be changed.

Jesus was not the one who changed. Instead he only looked different to the disciples, who were the ones who had been transfigured. Their eyes had opened to see Jesus, surrounded by light and revealed to them as the Son of God.

The disciples' lives are changed after this event. Prior to the Transfiguration, they merely thought they were following an outstanding teacher. After the Transfiguration, they realized that their lives were woven into God's plan that would create the transfiguration of the world.

Our lives are framed by experiences we have, altering the way we understand and experience the world. Much of this is beyond our control, including who our parents are, where we grew up, the language we speak, and whether or not we were born with a disability.

Sometimes we are given a flash of insight, seeing the world from another perspective. We can have clarity, seeing things from another perspective instead of being stuck in an old pattern. That's when we go beyond the limitations that we believe we have, or our perceived limitations about others, and then we're able to enter into a fuller reality. When this happens, we may be opened up to go beyond the dreariness of clinging to misguided ideas, old grudges, and the need to be right. Transfiguration is the consequence of being in God's presence.

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