

## Matthew 17, Transfiguration – ‘Jesus in all his glory’ (31<sup>st</sup> August 2014)

Think about famous story of Transfig – (SLIDE), refer to various images

One of those stories we love – books and films full of same idea. Someone we think we know turns out to be someone bigger or more powerful or more important. Might be king or queen going out into their city disguised and then suddenly reveal who they are: princess Jasmine in Aladdin (SLIDE)

Real life – Harry in Afghanistan, or William as helicopter pilot – holiday in Anglesey, Kate’s parking space at Waitrose – normal things but someone special.

Sometimes get a moment when discover true identity – know their character and their actions, but suddenly work out that they’re someone more – like this **clip** (Wreck-It Ralph 1:23:51 – 1:25:48)

Today’s story has similarities –ultimate ‘Reveal’. Disciples have been with Jesus for a year or so, and have been watching all the amazing things he’s said and done. Do they know who he is? This story tells us, and along the way we learn some really important things for us as well.

What are these? (SLIDE – KEYS) – cursor keys – use these to help us learn about keys to the story today. SLIDE – explain will be simple actions

**X (SLIDE) – disciples got it wrong about Jesus** – make shape.

Background to story – Caesarea Philippi – who do you say I am – Peter got it right ‘Messiah and Son of God’ – but then Jesus started talking about death and disciples didn’t understand. Left them confused – *what sort of Messiah is Jesus?* They had wrong idea – some sort of military king, certainly not someone who would be caught by his enemies.

X stands for disciples’ wrong idea – Jesus needed to reassure them and show them who he really was.

Which leads to... /\ (SLIDE) – what does that look like? **Mountain** (make shape) - ... so Jesus took his 3 best friends up a mountain. READ v1.

Who likes climbing mountains? We climbed Snowdon on hol (SLIDE)

## WHY WOULD YOU CLIMB A MOUNTAIN? (ASK)

- Exercise (unless got train!)
- Achievement
- View (ref slide)
- Separation from crowds/noise (not Snowdon!)

Vote on the following 4 suggestions... (SLIDE)

None of those reasons for Jesus – leads us onto next key...

## V (SLIDE) – points down i.e. aimed at disciples:

**Vision (SLIDE)** – READ v2. Who is Jesus? Or rather what sort of Rescuer is Jesus – answer a real one! Like God himself. Did you spot similarities with Daniel 7 – brilliant light. Ancient peoples worshipped sun – reminder that someone even greater, who made sun, possesses light within himself.

**Visitors (SLIDE)** – READ v3. Why those 2 – both met God on mountain. Represent whole of story of God's relationship with people – 'Law' and 'Prophets'. Also both rescued people – Moses from Egypt, Elijah from Ahab...

...but Elijah also promised as one who would return to make way for Messiah (Malachi – ref v12 in passage – i.e. John the Baptist)

**Voice (SLIDE)** – READ v5. This is the clincher – audible voice from heaven. When had happened before? (ASK – at baptism) How did disciples respond? (ASK) Terror – READ v6.

God is awesome – but how does Jesus respond to them? (ASK) READ v7. God's Son majestic but also intimate, someone we can know as friend, just like disciples.

What happened next? Did they stay up there enjoying experience of a lifetime? Did the world end? Next keys...

< > (SLIDE) **Go back down into real world – tell people** – not yet but READ v9. Then tell everyone. 'Who Jesus is' is a message for the whole world – need to take it out.

What happens when make this shape? (hands on hips, V pointing out - TRY)  
– nudge people in ribs – impacts people around you.

Baptism today – joining young life of (N) with Jesus - this is Jesus we are joining them with. The rescuer of world (Messiah) and God's Son. Message for whole world – why church keeps baptising, and why people like me keep sharing the message.

But surprising conclusion to story. **Back to where started (SLIDE) – X**. How Jesus prove he is rescuer/Messiah? The cross – READ v12b. Move the cross round a bit to look like this (SLIDE).

Heart of baptism service 'dying to sin' (twice) – just like Jesus did, only literal for him.

As close – question for you (SLIDE) what do you make of it? Who is this Jesus, really? What does it mean for him to be God's Son, the rescuer of humanity?

Might say – 'well, easy for disciples, they got to see it.' But what would you think if you did? I've known of people to see miracles and still not believe. If it happened then, is it less true?

2 responses – first is obvious (SLIDE) X – it's made up, or a trick – either way, still just a man. But there is a second response (SLIDE) – doesn't have to move much. Just a little step and your whole world changes.

What did you see today? What will your response be?