

*28 Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. 30 Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. 31 They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. 32 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. 33 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. 34 While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. 35 Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" 36 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.*

We cannot stare at the sun when it shines in all its brightness. If we do, we lose some of our sight. For the sun shines with more light than our eyes are equipped to handle. If we see too much light, we end up seeing no light at all. But at dawn and at dusk, filtered by the dust of the earth we see beauty unmatched in all creation.

God is light and in him is no darkness at all.

The sun on the clearest day at high noon, seen from the highest mountain is but the dimmest reflection of the light that is God.

To see the glory of God is to be blinded as Saul was. He saw a bright light, that light was the resurrected Jesus. Saul did not see for three days.

Peter and James and John went with Jesus up the mountain. While he was praying he was changed. His face, his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly he was not alone. They saw two men with him, Moses and Elijah, also dazzling white. The three talked about Jesus' departure, his Exodus. Then a cloud came over the mountain, a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him." Then Moses and Elijah were gone, and the cloud was gone, Jesus was left with Peter and James and John.

How strange that in this moment of seeing, this moment of light and glory, the voice of God told them to listen.

This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him.

We live in a time when the world is alive with God talk -God experiences. We live in an age where so many are trying to get in touch spiritually.

We know there is so much more light in the universe than we can see and deeper darkness also. We sense that struggles here on earth may be but a dim reflection of heavenly battles. So many tell me that they think the evening news is announcing the chaos descending before the final battle.

We want to see God and know the truth, to witness the light and not just at dawn and at dusk, but at high noon.

But God says, "This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him."

Once a bush burned but did not burn, and Moses went to see, but God spoke in words, and it was the words and not the vision that the people saved.

Once the Lord descended upon Mt. Sinai and the mountain shook, and there was lightning and thunder. But then God carved words, Ten Commandments, and it was these tablets of stones with their words that became the guide for the people of Israel.

And now even as they are on the mountain, with the heavenly glory all around, the almighty commands them to listen to Jesus.

Listen to Jesus. Jesus is God's Son. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Jesus is not just one path among many, but Jesus is the path to the light that is God. If we seek our own way, using our own vision we will be blinded, but if we follow Jesus word, he will be our eyes and direct us.

Jesus spoke with Moses and Elijah about his departure. His Exodus. For like Moses Jesus leads us out of slavery. Jesus leads us out of our slavery to sin, our slavery to greed and wealth and power. Jesus leads us out of our slavery to death. In his Exodus through the cross and the resurrection and his ascension to the Father, Jesus leads us through the wilderness to our Promised Land. How will we follow? We will listen to him.

Now that may sound kind of old fashioned in these days when the bookstores are full of books about angels. All sorts of people have all sorts of stories about heavenly beings showing up here and there and working miracles and protecting.

But God says, "This is my son, my Chosen, listen to him."

And there are people who will tell you about your life being controlled by the stars, signs under which you were born and under which you live.

But God says, "This is my son, my Chosen, listen to him."

Some even teach of a world that can be controlled through our prayers, as if prayers are the power and not the God to whom we pray.

But God says, “This is my son, my Chosen, listen to him.”

When the end has come and we have followed Jesus through his Exodus through the waters of death and into that eternal promised land that he has prepared for us, then we will see God as God is. Then we will be given eyes that will no longer be blinded by the light. But until that day our eyes are not a safe guide to God, only our ears that listen to Jesus' word are.

For Jesus is God's Son, God's Chosen, listen to him. Amen.