

**Title: “The Master’s Voice”<sup>1</sup>**  
**Text: Mark 9:2-9<sup>2</sup>**  
**Transfiguration Sunday – February 19, 2012**  
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**Slides 1 – 6 – the text**

*After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them,<sup>3</sup> and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.*

**---Slide 2---**

*<sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.*

**---Slide 3---**

*<sup>5</sup>And Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup>For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified.*

**---Slide 4---**

*<sup>7</sup>And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.”*

**---Slide 5---**

*<sup>8</sup>And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.*

**---Slide 6---**

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<sup>1</sup> PR: CP 79:57

<sup>2</sup> Scripture readings, unless otherwise noted, are taken from The Holy Bible: English Standard Version © copyright 2001 by Crossways Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

***<sup>9</sup>And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.***

## **S7 – When God Speaks ... who listens?**



One of the most important things a child must learn, if they are to be successful in life, is to listen. My wife tells of her childhood, when her parents wanted to speak to each other, without the children understanding, they would

switch to German. Guess what happened? The children learned to listen to what was said, in English and *auf Deutsch*.

Listening opens doors for communication. The art of counseling revolves around the ability to actively, carefully listen.


In today’s Gospel, the voice of the living God is heard. The question in the text could be summed up this way: “Who was listening?” And perhaps more important, as we hear the word of the living God, “Who is listening?”



The unique emphasis which Mark adds to this text is in verse 32: <sup>32</sup>***And he said this plainly.*** There was no ambiguity, no missing the point, no second guessing the meaning.

## S10 – Mark 9:4

**“The Master’s Voice”**



<sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.

“This is my beloved Son; listen to him.”  
And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.  
Mark 9:7-8



10

Now, before their eyes, Peter, James and John became witnesses. ***“And there appeared to them Elijah and Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.”***

Everything recorded about this event points to the importance of what happened that day. Dazzling garments, brilliant light, absolute silence, the voices of great men from ancient times, Moses and Elijah, speaking with their contemporary, their Master, Jesus.

## S11 – Moses & Elijah had their doubts

**Moses & Elijah had their doubts...**

11

Now, think back for a moment. Remember what the lives of Moses & Elijah had been like. What you will find is, these men faced the same thing the disciples faced, the same thing you and I face, conflicting voices, confusing feelings, and times of doubt and despair.

### **S11a – Moses @ Burning Bush<sup>3</sup>**

Moses was struck with awe, when God spoke from the burning bush. He listened as God challenged him to return to Egypt and lead the Israelites out of Egypt, and his awe gave way to conflict and confusion.

Or move ahead to Mt. Sinai. God provides the Law in written form. Moses takes it to the people, only to find they have rejected God. Moses pleads and God responds, and the cycle of sin and grace goes on and on, confusing and conflicting as it is.

### **S11b – Elijah @ Mouth of Cave<sup>4</sup>**

Or look at Elijah, threatened with death by Ahab the King, despised by many of the people. It's not supposed to be that way for a prophet of the Lord, is it? So what does he do? He goes to a mountain and hides in a cave. And God comes to Him, not in a storm-like voice, not in a quaking voice, but in a silent, calming voice. The confirming voice of God is the voice Elijah hears. And this is the voice that gives Him strength and courage to move forward, as God directed.


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<sup>3</sup> Exodus 3-4

<sup>4</sup> 1 Kings 19

## S12 – Verses 5-6

**“The Master’s Voice”**



<sup>5</sup>And Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup>For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

“This is my beloved Son; listen to him.”  
And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.  
Mark 9:7-8


12

Imagine the thoughts that may have surfaced, as the disciples saw, and heard, and listened to Moses, Elijah and Jesus. Mark tells us what their emotions were. Peter, tried to say something intelligent, but all that would come out was,

***“Let’s build tents ... altars ... times three.”***

## S13 – Verse 7

**“The Master’s Voice”**



“This is my beloved Son; listen to him.”

“This is my beloved Son; listen to him.”  
And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.  
Mark 9:7-8

13

And the answer came, not from Jesus or the others standing there, but from the thunderous voice of the Father. The result? ***“they were terrified.”*** No wonder!

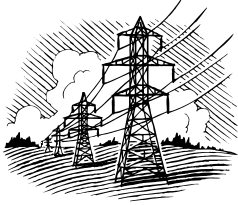
This was not discussion as usual. This was not their

Rabbi treating them like meek sheep, this was the voice of authority. This was a voice preparing them for what would be the most conflicting and confusing time ever.


How could it be that this Good Shepherd, this bearer of Good News, would very soon travel the way of the cross? How could salvation come through death? And, what was this talk of resurrection?

## S14 – The Strongest Voice

**The strongest voices often win**



**Voices in our world**  
garble  
scramble  
irritate  
eliminate  
**TRUTH**




14

As you know, I am a fan of Wisconsin sports. Whenever I can I listen to WTMJ Milwaukee. Their motto is, “*The home of the Packers and Badgers and Brewers and Bucks.*” In my book, that’s as good a station as one could hope to find.

Except for when you live in Machesney Park. Every power line blurs the signal, and interferes with what’s being said. The scrambled, irritating, disconcerting noise, causes me to shut the radio off completely.


## S15 – Verse 7

**“The Master’s Voice”**



**“This is my beloved Son; listen to him.”**

“This is my beloved Son; listen to him.”  
And suddenly, looking around,  
they no longer saw anyone with them  
but Jesus only.  
**Mark 9:7-8**



15

Listening to Jesus, as He prepared them for the mountain, as He took them, as He was Transfigured before them, and as they came down, had to be like that. The confusing signals could only be overcome by

the strongest voice. And that voice was the voice of the Father: **“*This is my beloved Son, listen to Him!*”**

## S16 – The Voice to which we should listen

**“The Master’s Voice ...”**



... is  
**THE VOICE**  
to which  
we should  
**LISTEN.**


“This is my beloved Son; listen to him.”  
And suddenly, looking around,  
they no longer saw anyone with them  
but Jesus only.  
Mark 9:7-8

16

Listening to the Word of God today is a lot like it was back then. People attempt to explain Jesus in a host of ways. Some say He was a prophet, others, a great man, others, a hoax or a con artist.

## S17 – John 10:27-28

**John 10:27-28**



“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.”

“This is my beloved Son; listen to him.”  
And suddenly, looking around,  
they no longer saw anyone with them  
but Jesus only.  
Mark 9:7-8


17

But we not only *hear*, we *listen* to the Word. We listen and we hear Him reminding us: **“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow me, and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.”**

If we would begin each day *listening* to those words, imagine how it would help to remove the confusing voices from our ears.

## S18 – Mark 8:34-36

**Mark 8:34-36**



"This is my beloved Son; listen to him." And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.  
Mark 9:7-8

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?”

18


A few weeks before our text, Jesus said to these disciples, ***“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake***

***and the gospel's will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?***

He said these words for your benefit and mine as well.

## S19 – Lk 10:39-42

**Luke 10:39-42**



"This is my beloved Son; listen to him." And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.  
Mark 9:7-8

<sup>41</sup>But the Lord answered her, ***“Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, <sup>42</sup>but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”***

19

Perhaps, nowhere do we get a clearer picture of the Savior's desire than the day he visited with Mary and Martha in their home. ***Martha had a sister, Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his***


***teaching. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.” <sup>41</sup>But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, <sup>42</sup>but one thing is necessary. Mary***

***has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”***

Martha's question was, "Lord, don't you care?" Jesus' answer was, "I care so much, come, sit and listen."

## **S20 – Lk 14:35**

**Luke 14:35b**



**"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"**

"This is my beloved Son; listen to him." And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.  
Mark 9:7-8

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The point is very simple. While the world may specialize in small talk, while gossip may spread all kinds of terrible lies, we are called to share and to listen to the voice that matters.

This Lord reminds us, ***He who has ears to hear, let him hear.***"

## **S21 – Theological Truth is Never Relative**

**"The Master's Voice ... The Voice Worth Hearing"**



**Theological TRUTH is NEVER Relative**

"This is my beloved Son; listen to him." And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.  
Mark 9:7-8

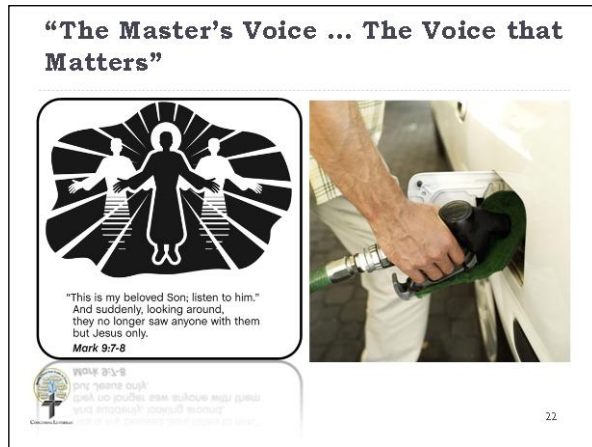
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The shallowness of our world today shows when people say, "one belief is as good as another," "no one has a corner on the truth." Everyone has a right to choose what to believe, but that does not make every belief true or valid.

**Theological truth is never relative!**

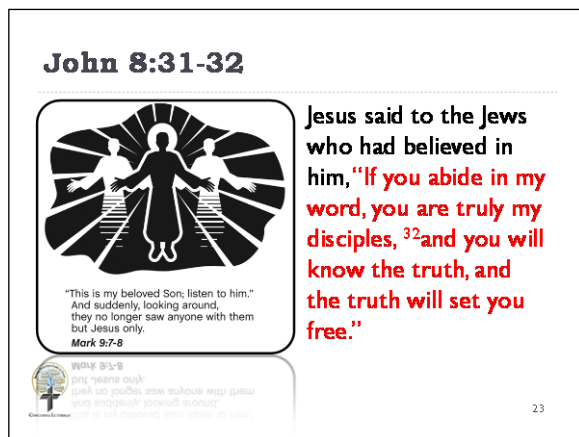
## S22 – Gas Tank



The idea that all philosophies, ideas, and teachings ultimately are beneficial, and will lead to God makes as much sense as saying, “It really doesn’t matter what kind of liquid you pour into the gas tank of your car.” Try a thankful of sand,

or water, or mud, and see what happens to your car. Without the right fuel, the result will be pure disaster.

## S23 – John 8:31-32



Life throws at us some pretty vicious attacks. Upsetting, hard things, happen all the time. Distracting voices confuse and compete for our attention. Crass self-indulgence seems to rule our world. There

seems to be no security or serenity in the world we live in. We need to hear the truth: ***Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”***

That is the absolute truth!

## S24 – Martin Luther’s words

**“The Master’s Voice ... The Voice Worth Hearing”**



▶ **“Let the man who would hear God speak, read the Holy Scriptures.”**

▶ Martin Luther

“This is my beloved Son; listen to him.”  
And suddenly, looking around,  
they no longer saw anyone with them  
but Jesus only.  
**Mark 9:7-8**

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We need not despair. The voice of the Lord still is heard. **“Let the man who would hear God speak, read Holy Scripture.”**

This is the good advice – the good fuel – the good Word we need. We need it for this day of the

Transfiguration, throughout the upcoming Lenten season about to begin, and for eternity. Amen.