

The Mind's Eye
Luke 9:28-36

The title of today's sermon, The Mind's Eye, can be defined or described as your memory in living color, 3D and surround sound. It's taking something that happened maybe years ago and remembering it to the point of describing the occasion to friends or loved ones; or enjoying the memory by yourself over a cup of coffee in a quiet spot.

One of thoughts that come to my mind after I studied the scripture today is, how did the Disciples keep quiet about what just happened up on that mountain?

How did they do that?

Keeping quiet about something big or a monumental happening around you is very hard!

Or, how do you remember those things that happen around you or that happen to you?

When I was in Junior & Senior High School in Dallas, I was a member of the marching band, this was a time of urban sprawl and people were leaving the cities and headed to the suburbs in droves! Our marching band was big – over 100 members & I remember having such a great time marching at half time of the football games & playing for all the parents & fans.

In my mind's eye I can see us marching down the field – alignment is perfect with the person next to you; our marching style was a military style where we didn't spell anything out. And in my mind's ear, every note was in perfect tune and with perfect pitch. In my mind, we sounded good!

My mind's eye was crushed one evening after a football game; a bunch of us kids and parents were at one of the parents' house after the game enjoying each other when the parents conversation switched from the game to the halftime show, I immediately began feeling real good because I knew the band was fixing to be complimented and praised for its precision and hard work. Then one of the parents said, "oh our band, **bless their hearts**"!

In Texas when someone says – "bless their hearts", it's not a compliment, it's a statement of pity or sorrow.

Later in my music career, I played in a rock and roll band that toured around North Texas playing for fraternity's and different party's; in my mind's eye, we were real good! But as I look back on that time, I remember turning each amplifier we used up to the max and playing as loud as we could. In fact one night we were playing at a skating rink in Venus Texas and the owner told us we were too loud; what did an old timer telling a bunch of teen age musician we were too loud? He told us a second time if we didn't turn it down he'd turn off the electricity; we didn't believe him – we should have, he turned off the electricity to our stage and all you could hear was our bad singing and acoustical guitars. In reality, he should have said, "Bless their hearts" and turned the electricity off sooner.

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In your mind's eye you probably remember the Kennedy Assassination and where you were, who was with you, what the person on the other end of the loud speaker said when they tried to explain what had just happened.

The shuttle disaster was another one of those events; you remember the smoke trail from the space shuttle and where you were as you watched on TV.

The 9/11 disaster is another event etched within your mind's eye; you can still see the second plane crashing into the building, you remember who you were with as you watched the towers come crashing down. You remember later going to church services for comfort, giving blood to help the survivors; your mind's eye won't let you forget the tragedies that day.

Your mind's eye also remembers that special event in your childhood; maybe it's Christmas with your family that you'll always remember what it looked like and how the house was decorated, or a special graduation or the birth of a child.

I still remember in my mind's eye what the hospital corridor looked like when my son was born, I remember the corridor because in those day's dads weren't allowed in the birthing room, I remember exactly who was around me and what happened.

The question for each of us is, what did we do with what we remembered in our mind's eye? It could also be called, our memory - with pictures

Let's look at what's going on in the Scripture today.

This scripture has quite a bit going on, earlier Jesus sent out His 12 Disciples to drive out demons, cure the sick and preach the good Word and to take nothing with them, God would provide.

His cousin, John the Baptist was killed by Herod,

Jesus feeds the five thousands and then we come to the scripture just before ours for today.

The very last sentence before our scripture says, **"I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."**

Then our scripture starts;

“About eight days after Jesus said this;

What did Jesus say eight days earlier?

Back in verse 18 Jesus is praying along with his disciples and he suddenly asks,

“Who do the crowds say I am? Their response is in verse 19:

¹⁹ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.”

Then Jesus asked the question another way, “Who do you think I am”?

And Peter answered, “You are the Christ – the Messiah”

Then he begins explaining the costs of following The Messiah. He will suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the law, he must be killed and on the third day he will be raised to life.

Then in verse 23 it says:

²³ Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?²⁶ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

²⁷ “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

So these words set heavy on the hearts of the disciples for eight days.

We continue:

Jesus took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray.

These three disciples were Jesus executive staff, they always seemed to be around when miracles were performed or other notable events in the Bible took place, and they were to be the leaders of the Church after Jesus was gone from this earth

²⁹As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰Two men, Moses and Elijah, ³¹appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus.

Moses & Elijah were elite members of the Jewish hall of fame. Moses represented the law and Elijah represented all the prophets, so to Peter, John & James and any Jew, for them to show up was a really big deal. Also, remember in the Old Testament when Moses spoke to God his face shown and he wore a veil to cover it up? Jesus did not need a veil – He tore the veil down that separated the church.

They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

Remember, Jesus also talked about his death for the first time to his disciples earlier.

[32](#)Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. [33](#)As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.)

They responded like we probably would they wanted this moment to last, and they wanted to make everyone comfortable, however Jesus knew it couldn't happen-he had to go to Jerusalem for his date with the cross.

[34](#)While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.[35](#)A voices came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.”

This was the second time God had spoken for all to hear, the first was at Jesus baptism. This part of the passage also fulfilled Jesus' earlier prediction that some of you standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God. “James, John & Peter saw the Kingdom of God come over them in a cloud and heard God speak.

[36](#)When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen.

How did Disciples recollect the happenings on the mountain, how did they recall all that went on? The story of the Transfiguration is told in Matthew, Mark & Luke –

I believe it was their mind's eye with super natural power from the Holy Spirit.

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After all was said and done; Jesus was praised as He entered Jerusalem, falsely accused and tried, was crucified and buried in a stone grave.

His disciples scattered out of fear for their own lives; and then that day of Pentecost came; the day when the Holy Spirit descended on each one of the disciples with the power of Jesus Christ.

This is where the mind's eye takes over.

Each one of them remembered vividly the time spent with Jesus, the healings, the miracles, the parables, and the time just sitting and talking with him.

Now it was time to turn their minds eye into reality and put to actions all that Jesus had taught them.

You know if we look back at some of our earlier examples I gave of the mind's eye, changes were made. The band director looked at tapes and listened to recordings of our half time shows and worked hard to improve us, we ended up winning several state championships because someone looked and listened to our problems and helped us get better.

The guitar player in our band went on to be a Grammy winner'

Our nations Presidents security was greatly improved after the Kennedy assassination;

The space shuttle disaster made the engineers go back to the drawing board and discover a tiny little gasket had caused this huge tragedy and safety was greatly improved.

The 9/11 tragedy changed our lives forever; it changed our travel plans, it changed schedules, but most importantly it changed the way we related to people in a far away land.

So I go back to think about our disciples and how their mind's eye operated, after Pentecost, they took their minds eye memory into action and began building the church as Jesus wanted. Their minds eye gave them detailed instructions on what to do and how to do it.

I can see the Apostle John as an old man, he's probably already written the Book of Revelation, and he's sitting in the back of a dim lit room with stories flying around about the early followers of Christ and how the time Jesus took James, Peter and John up to a mountaintop and Moses & Elijah appeared and then God came in a cloud and spoke.....then John speaks up from the back of the room saying, "let me tell you how it was that day, I was there". "My mind's eye is crystal clear"!

Dr. Vernon McGee is quoted as saying:

"The highest desire that can possess any human heart is a longing to see God." These Disciples saw God that day and every day they spent with Jesus, they took that memory and turned it into the church as we know it today, just simple men like you and me.

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Let me close with a couple of questions, what's going on in your mind's eye that would cause you to make some changes or move forward in your walk with Christ? Is it a project for the homeless here in Archbold, is it feeding the hungry, is it starting a new ministry?

You probably have something in your mind's eye from long ago that will lead you on your journey closer and closer to Christ.

So fulfill that picture in your mind's eye and turn it into reality, break down the walls of this church and open it to all the hurting people around you, seek and you will find.

Amen