

Glory and Humility in Jesus

1 Cor 4:3-12 Mar 9:2-9

I read recently that Actress Anne Hathaway made \$7m+ last year and it set me thinking about the rich and powerful.

I thought about the treatment famous people get when they visit places. They receive the best service, adulation and attention.

But how would *you* react if you knew someone rich and famous was coming to have dinner at your place tomorrow night?

Well, there is no-one richer, more famous or more powerful than God.

Even the richest and most powerful people are just specks on the earth.

And our Earth is just a speck in the solar system.

Let's give this some sort of perspective...

Imagine a model of the Solar System

Here are the specifications

Sun-20cm (bowling ball size)

Mercury-0.7mm (pinhead)

Venus-2mm

Earth-Slightly over 2mm

Mars-Around 2mm

Jupiter-a chestnut 2.2cm

Saturn-a hazelnut 1.7cm

Uranus-a peanut, diameter 7.5mm

Neptune-a second peanut

Pluto- (no longer a planet, but about 0.5mm)

How much space do you think we would need for this model?

From the sun to the Earth? 23metres.

From the sun to Pluto 931metres (69m shy of a km!)

From St Thomas' Church our model needs a circle to stretch from the corner of Hastings River Rd, to a point out across the Hastings River, another almost to Pacific Drive, and then around to the Private hospital on Lakes Rd!

Large though it is, our Solar system is just about invisible in a picture on the Milky Way.

To make a scale model of the Milky Way on the same scale as our solar system model would take, very roughly...

160 million km. ie Further than the earth to the Sun

(it would take a 747 jet about 17yrs to reach the Sun at 965 km/hr)

Next we have to realise that our Milky Way galaxy is just one of billions. Maybe 500,000,000,000.

Now listen to Genesis...

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars.

Now listen again to the first three verses from John's Gospel...

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

The reason I am telling you this, is because it puts the Transfiguration story into some sort of perspective.

The disciples undoubtedly knew that there was something special about Jesus. They would hardly have left everything to follow him if there hadn't been. In fact in the previous chapter Peter had already declared that Jesus is the Messiah.

They hear him speak in ways with rare wisdom and insight. They saw him heal the sick and perform miracles.

But now, on top of the mountain, they saw as it were through a window into heaven.

They saw the glory of Jesus, shining in all its brightness...
 the King of kings and Lord of lords
 the one by whom, and for whom all things had been created
 the sort of glory that he had before the world was created
 and the glory that he would later return to.

But it is also the glory in which Christians are to share...

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians (Chap 2)...

³But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The transfiguration of Jesus was a dramatic confirmation of Peter's confession... "You are the Christ"

It showed Jesus with the great prophet, Elijah, and the great law-giver, Moses. But when the voice from heaven speaks it says...

"This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

And Jesus is seen alone...

Jesus is the great one to supersede all who have gone before!

This experience was not just for the benefit of the disciples on the mountain, for our benefit as well.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians in chapter 4s...

³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

In Mark's Gospel we see the contrast between Peter's confession of faith, and the Pharisees, who were determined not to believe in Jesus. Jesus says to them that they will get no sign of affirmation, because of their entrenched opposition.

But for those who will reach out in faith, the veil is lifted.

Just as the veil of the ordinary was lifted for the disciples, to reveal the glory of God in the face of Jesus, so we too can glimpse something of the glory of God in our own lives.

When we put our trust in Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord we receive the Spirit of God who begins a work of transformation within us.

In the process we start to see and understand Jesus better.

And part of that realisation is the tremendous journey that Jesus made in leaving the glory of heaven to take up our earthly life, and going through suffering like no other as he died on the cross for our sins.

As we contemplate the tragedies of bush fire and flood over the past weeks, the Transfiguration stands as a beacon of hope.

Here is a Saviour who has lived our life and suffered and died, but who has the power to lift us up and encourage us in our time of need. And beyond the grief and loss is the message that there is so much more to come. One day, in Christ, we will share in the glory of God!

Today as we see the humility and humanity of Jesus illuminated by the glory of God...

let those of us who are Christians take courage that through the ups and downs of life we will eventually share in that glory

let those of you who do not know Christ, reach out to The King of kings in faith and receive his forgiveness and his Spirit, to transform you into the person that you were intended to be.

Paul wrote...

⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Make Christ's light shine in your heart today.