Sunday 26th June 2016 Message

Be transfigured

***Scripture: Luke 9:27-36, (Matthew 17:1-13, Mark 9:1-13,) 2 Peter 1:16-18***

**Introduction**

**Video Clip**

Does the caterpillar have any concept that one day he will have wings and fly? If the caterpillar had a brain would he make a decision to form into a chrysalis and come out as a flying insect that will not live long (on average one month)? Yet would the caterpillar think differently if it knew that unless it became a chrysalis and then a butterfly there would be no more caterpillars.

On Thursday the nation voted for better or worse to go into a chrysalis and come out as something completely different. The chrysalis is formed by the body of the caterpillar breaking up to form a shell for a fluid to exist in, which then metamorphises. The chrysalis period of Article 50, two years, is the time when everything we had will break up, become a fluid situation surrounded by a hard shell before we are transformed. During the metamorphis process our determination to come out remaining strong and be a beautiful nation at the end of it will shape all aspect of our life, and it will be very different. The struggles inside a chrysalis, like a baby in the womb, will determine whether we live or die, and if we live whether we will be strong or weak.

The process of a caterpillar changing to a butterfly, and this nation changing from being governed by the EU to governing itself, is one of metamorphis. This is the Greek word translated transformed in

***Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.***

***NKJV***

AND the word translated transfigured in the three gospel accounts of Jesus’ transfiguration e.g

***Matt 17:2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. NKJV***

I believe Jesus gave us a physical vision of the inner metamorphis, transformation, transfiguration that followers of Jesus must go through, and that which is encouraged by Paul in the book of Romans.

Have you made up your minds that you truly want to be transfigured? Let me tell you that the Father loves you so much, He has no desire for you to stay the way you are. I also believe He does not want you to wait until the day you are called to glory to be changed in the twinkling of an eye. Father wants you to be changed every day to be more like Jesus. It is time to break out of the chrysalis, look beautiful and bring new life into the kingdom.

**How are we transfigured?**

The first thing to note in this passage is that Jesus went up the mountain to pray. So often our metamorphosis of our thoughts and ideas about the Father and about who we are in Jesus occurs in our intimate moments with Him. If we come out of prayer the same way as we went into prayer we have not changed, we have not been transformed by His presence. Likewise we need to enter our times of prayer laying aside all of our own ideas and agendas and demands on God IN ORDER to be totally open minded to His ways which we cannot understand.

Jesus took just three disciples up the mountain to be in prayer, that probably did not seem very fair to the others, might be considered as favouritism to us, would no doubt of been seen as politically incorrect in today’s society. Yet there was a plan and a purpose to Jesus’ choice:-

Jesus knew their FUTURE MINISTRY:

PETER – he would be the leader of the early church (he would also refer to this event

in 2 Peter 1:16-18 as significant event)
JAMES – he would pastor the church in Jerusalem.
JOHN – he would write the book of Revelation.

These three guys in particular needed to know Jesus both in His earthly manifestation and in His heavenly reality. Not only that I believe they needed to know that their lives also needed to be transfigured.

The opening statement of Jesus to His transfiguration was

***Mark 9:1 And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power." NKJV***

These three guys were about to see something that revealed the coming power of the kingdom of God, before they died. What did He mean? Obviously in Jesus they had seen the power of the kingdom released, and even in their own ministry under His authority had they seen kingdom power. Jesus I believe was referring to the “kingdom of God present with power” manifest through the birth of the church. A community who unlike Israel experienced power through some individuals, to a people transfigured, metamorphised by a baptism with power.

I am so encouraged that these three significant disciples are so much like us. Luke tells us they fell asleep while Jesus was praying. They had not tuned in to the significance of the occasion.

**This is My only Son**

Only on two occassions in the gospel did God speak audibly from heaven and say “This is my only Son”. First at the baptism of Jesus, and second at His transfiguration. On the first occasion we are told that God is well pleased with Him, and on the second to “Hear Him”.

The transfiguration takes place just before the end of Jesus ministry. Three years these disciples have seen Jesus preach and perform miracles, yet God has to tell these three to “Hear Him”. Like most of us they had probably only obeyed and understood the bits that their soulish/selfish conditioned mindsets thought possible.

To me here is the ultimate command to walk through the sword. Yes, you will be martyred for your faith, but the end result is that you will totally become like what you have just witnessed. From now on do everything that I have taught you, shown you and that Holy Spirit will reveal to you and the kingdom of God present in power that you have just seen in me, will become manifest in you.

Prayer should always result in obedience to the revelation He gives as to what is possible.

**Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

After Jesus had been baptized by John, in the baptism of repentance from sin, He went into the desert and came out saying

***Matt 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." NIV***

John had said “the one who comes after me will baptize with fire” as well as the Holy Spirit. I think in the transfiguration we see a Jesus aglow, burning with the fire. His clothes were like lightning. The power within Him shone out and invited a cloud of glory and two patriarchs into this incredible event in the life of Jesus.

The power that burns within us is just but a shadow of our eternal glorified being, but it is real

***Rom 8:19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.***

***NIV***

Not only have we been baptised in water as a sign of our repentance from sin, but our baptism in Holy Spirit is confirmation of our decision to repent from an earthly mind set towards a heavenly mind set.

**Elijah and Moses**

The two patriarchs who did not see a normal death get to be with Jesus on this special occasion. They both get to see the power of the coming kingdom of Jesus through the church as a result of the impending death and resurrection of Jesus. I expect they were excited for a number of reasons, probably most of all because their dreams and beliefs in a supreme God were about to be fulfilled.

For Moses this was also his fifth time on this mountain, the number of grace. This is his first time in the promised land. He as the symbol of authority in the OT also gets to see the authority of Jesus as He is transfigured.

Elijah the symbol of power in the OT also gets to see the promise of power being released to Gods people.

Their presence revealed the plan to release both POWER and AUTHORITY to the church because of Jesus’ death and resurrection. That is the transfiguration that we are being called too in Jesus, a people of both POWER and AUTHORITY. SPIRIT and WORD.

The disciples had had a taste of this in Jesus’ ministry but after His death they and us were to become the power of the kingdom in this earth. A caterpillar, that becomes a butterfly.

**Jesus was transfigured at a low point in His earthly life**

Jesus knew He was about to be crucified, He knew that carrying the sin of the world would separate Him from His Father. How do you feel when it appears your world is falling apart, when things are changing and the outcomes are uncertain? It may be the outcome of the referendum, it may be a financial or personal crisis you are going through. Whatever it is there are times in everyone’s life when the human response is one of despair and fear. We only have to look at the whole process of the referendum to know fear and despair is prevalent in this nation, but what about you?

Jesus was a human and He sweated blood over what He was about to face, He needed a transfiguration experience as much as the disciples.

David said

***Ps 27:13 I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord NASU***

David knew that in low points, there was always something better in God. The NASU says I would have despaired the NIV says I am confident. David lived with a heavenly perspective and expected it to become an earthly reality.

**Being transformed/transfigured is a tough process of inheritance**

In the transfiguration Jesus was reminded of the eternal process, and the disciples were assured that no matter what they were to go through the whole process is one of metamorphis into eternal beauty.

Every weak point in our life, when God decides in His timing to highlight it, He is not doing so to make us feel bad. He is laying His hand on the place of your next miracle. He is pointing to the place in your life where you will receive your next inheritance. God has prepared for you so much to inherit, and every low point is a place where you have not received part of your inheritance.

You have been crucified in Christ, the old man is dead, you are born again a child of God. Everything in heaven is available to you, and you are being transformed to take hold of all that God has made available to you. God has killed you. What He now sees is a new creation. You no longer have a sin nature, you have a sin habit. God journeys with you in the process of transformation, He does not leave you to wallow in your mess but points the way out.

When you are in a low place ever thought your inheritance calling out to you. You are a joint heir in Christ. Jesus has already redeemed everything in your life, your redemption inheritance is waiting to be claimed as God points out to you your weakness/low point is an area that has an inheritance waiting for you. Now that should make you see all your low points differently and also as ambassadors of Christ whenever you see someone else having a low point you can be assured that Jesus has an inheritance for them to enter into. That is a more positive approach than being told or telling somebody they are failing.

It should excite you that the low point you are in means you have an inheritance you have not yet received. Even more exciting when you know what that inheritance is and you claim and receive it. Jesus owns everything about you, low points and high points.

That means Jesus wants to give you all the things you currently have not received.

***Rom 8:17 and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. NKJV***

If you are in Christ then so are all your circumstances. They are not a dilemma to God because He has already redeemed every situation.

**Work because God is at work. Be His ambassadors.**

***John 5:17 Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." NIV***

Jesus says this as He is challenged for healing somebody on the Sabbath. There is more to this statement than doing good works on the Sabbath. Jesus makes it clear that His Father is always bringing people out of their low places into their inheritance.

If that is what Jesus does, He works because His Father is working, then that is our delegated task also.

We are ambassadors of Christ, enforcing/releasing people into their inheritance. We are in the business of creating with Christ.

Whenever He has transformed you from a low place to a better place, He does so that you share this experience with others in low places. It is for you to be able to give hope to others, it is for you to be His ambassador. Just think about it, do you think He wants the people you come into contact with full of despair and fear. No of course not. Can you give them real hope, not just a theory or head knowledge, unless it is in you? No more than you can say Peace storm be still, unless you have peace in your own heart.

**Concluding Comments**

You are meant to be transfigured. You are not totally in possession of your inheritance. Father is coming to you at your personal point of weakness this morning to reveal your next miracle of metamorphis.

Are you prepared?