

# Readers' Theatre – Dazzling God – For Transfiguration Sunday

*Matthew 17:1-9*

*(For three readers)*

- Voice 1 Peter wanted to build three booths.  
Voice 2 Three tents.  
Voice 1 Not a bad idea, given the circumstances!  
Voice 2 A private viewing of the three greatest people in history!  
Voice 3 Jesus  
Voice 1 Moses  
Voice 2 Elijah  
Voice 1 I was totally up for the idea. This was the most awesome thing I had ever experienced.  
Voice 3 We had to do something for these giants of the faith – make a gesture, offer something!  
Voice 1 It's not every day you get to see Moses!  
Voice 2 Man, I wanted to ask him what it was like to part the Red Sea...!  
Voice 3 If we had just set up some tents, we could have spent more time with them, even lived there with them!  
Voice 1 None of us were eager to return down the mountain.  
Voice 3 Return to the crowds, all those needy people.  
Voice 2 Why not stay put on that summit?  
Voice 1 But then ... the cloud shrouded us.  
Voice 3 And the voice stopped us in our tracks.  
Voice 2 A sound out of nowhere.  
Voice 1 From the sky, just like at Jesus' baptism.  
Voice 2 I was terrified.  
Voice 1 Stunned.  
Voice 3 Unnerved.  
Voice 2 Scared stiff.  
Voice 1 "This is my Son."  
Voice 3 "This is my Son."  
Voice 2 "Listen to him."

*Pause*

- Voice 1 We were quiet for a long time.

Voice 3 The cloud receded and Moses and Elijah were nowhere to be seen.  
Voice 2 Had it been a dream?  
Voice 1 Jesus was still with us.  
Voice 2 It seemed he needed time to pray.  
Voice 1 To process the event – kind of like he always does.  
Voice 3 I suck at meditating. I just wanted Moses and Elijah to come back.  
Voice 2 Clearly it had been a one-time experience. We'd blown our chance.  
Voice 1 Maybe. And yet Jesus seemed to think the experience had been valuable.  
Voice 3 Yeah, but he draws meaning from *everything*.  
Voice 1 But didn't you notice that Jesus looked ... different?  
Voice 2 I mean, last night, he was kind of lit up.  
Voice 3 Dazzling.  
Voice 1 Yeah, but more his facial expression. Like he had received an affirmation.  
Voice 2 A blessing?  
Voice 1 Yeah, confirming what he needs to do.  
Voice 3 OK ...?  
Voice 2 And what is that?  
Voice 1 I don't know.

*Pause*

Voice 2 Are *we* supposed to know what we're doing?  
Voice 1 Well, the voice said to listen to him.  
Voice 3 I've tried that.  
Voice 2 We all have, but it's not easy.  
Voice 1 Maybe that's why we were given another glimpse. You know, of holiness, holy people.  
Voice 3 A *fleeting* glimpse!  
Voice 2 A teaser!  
Voice 1 Maybe it was enough.

*Pause*

Voice 1 I can't quite shake that dazzling light from my vision.  
Voice 2 I've got these little bright spots dancing around my eyes.  
Voice 3 You too?  
Voice 2 How d'you suppose we'll explain *this* to the optometrist?  
Voice 3 Maybe some of Jesus' special mud will do the trick.  
Voice 1 Guys, I think we've been marked.  
Voice 3 Marked?

Voice 2 Like, branded?  
Voice 1 Transformed. Don't you feel like you've been invited into a mystery?  
Voice 3 Mysterious, yes.  
Voice 1 The mystery of what it means to follow Jesus. To hear God's voice. To follow God's way.  
Voice 2 I suppose.  
Voice 3 You know what this means, right? We'll have to travel further with Jesus. Into Jerusalem.  
Voice 1 That scares me.  
Voice 2 Me, too. Something tells me things won't bode well for him there.  
Voice 3 You gotta wonder why he'd go somewhere he knows he's not welcome.  
Voice 1 And yet *we're* welcome...

*Pause*

Voice 3 It's not going to go away, is it. This new way of seeing. These dancing lights in my line of vision.  
Voice 2 I kinda doubt it.  
Voice 1 And I don't think mud is going to work either.

*Pause*

Voice 2 D'you think he'll recruit more tax collectors?  
Voice 3 Or heal more lepers?  
Voice 2 Or exorcise more demons?  
Voice 3 Or befriend more prostitutes?  
Voice 1 That may be the least of our worries.  
Voice 3 If he tells one more story about a farmer ...  
Voice 1 We said we were in this.  
Voice 3 Yes, we did.

*Pause*

Voice 2 Mountain top experiences can't last forever.  
Voice 3 Nor saints, apparently.  
Voice 1 But Jesus is here.  
Voice 2 Ready to descend the mountain.  
Voice 3 And walk toward Jerusalem.  
Voice 1 I guess it's up to us to follow.  
Voice 3 With these new eyes of faith

Voice 2 Transformed.

Voice 1 You down?

Voice 3 I'm down.

Voice 2 I'm down.

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