

**“GOD IS ON THE MOUNTAIN”
Pastor Mike Corwin**

TEXT: LUKE 9:28-36

GOD’S WORD: EXODUS 3:4-6

I – WHERE’S?:

School has started for another year so I know that you who have school age children have started playing the game. Some of you probably played it this morning as you got ready for church. Anyone who has ever raised or dealt with children has played it and will remember it. I call it the “WHERE’S” game.

From up in the bedroom you hear one of the kids yell, “Where’s my pants or shirt or socks or any other item of clothing you expect them to put on that day?” Or from downstairs as the bus blows the horn out in the street you hear them yell, “Where’s my shoes?” Then you hear them yelling things like “Where’s my homework” or “Where’s my lunch money?” With today’s kids I’m guessing we’ve added, “Where’s my cell phone?” to the game. You all remember the game now?

And as your offspring are running around the house like Chihuahuas on caffeine in pursuit of the items you tell them where to look. Your clothes are probably on the floor in the corner of the room, right where you threw them. Your shoes are by the back door where you kicked them off last night when you came home. Your homework is in your book bag on the kitchen counter where we put it when it was finished last night and I put your lunch money there too. I don’t really care where your cell phone is because I’m sending you to school to learn not text. And then you tell them if they’d lay the stuff out the night before like you’ve told them over and over, you wouldn’t have to play the “WHERE’S” game.

II – WHERE’S GOD?:

It occurs to me that people play this same game with God, even the faithful play this game from time to time. Things happen that we don’t understand and we ask “Where’s God?” Sometimes we even yell it out! A loved one passes away prematurely and we ask “where’s God?” A factory closes and hundreds of jobs are gone and we ask, “Where’s God?” A friend or a relative gets hooked up with the wrong people and does

things that get them in serious trouble and we ask, “Where’s God?” We’re told we have some disease such as cancer and we ask “Where’s God?”

The answer is that God is where he’s always been...God is on the mountain. God has never left his place of glory, has never stopped looking down on us, has never stopped watching over us, and has never ceased to love us. He has always been on the mountain waiting for us to climb up and find him. I told you last week our faith is like a mountain and God is on that mountain, but you have to climb the mountain and you climb it through?...PRAYER!

It’s on that mountain that you find God. That’s what happened to Moses. In the Scripture you heard read last week Moses went up the mountain to see the burning bush and found God there. God spoke to him there. In this morning’s reading, as we continued that story, you find out something else about climbing the mountain. Not only do you find God there, you find out *about* God there too. Right after God speaks to Moses he begins to let Moses know who he is. He lets him know he is a holy God as he tells Moses to take off his shoes because the ground Moses stands on is Holy ground. He lets him know he is the God of his people and has been since the very beginning with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. If you continue on you’ll see that he is a God who cares for those people, has heard their cries of misery and is going to do something about it. Moses found all this out as he climbed the mountain. He found God and found out about God on the mountain.

III – TEXT:

We see this same lesson in the New Testament. That God is on the mountain, and he reveals himself on that mountain as we pray.

Luke 9:28-36 (NLT)

²⁸About eight days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John up on a mountain to pray. ²⁹And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was transformed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Then two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared and began talking with Jesus. ³¹They were glorious to see. And they were speaking about his exodus from this world, which was about to be fulfilled in Jerusalem. ³²Peter and the others had fallen asleep. When they woke up, they saw Jesus’ glory and the two men standing with him. ³³As Moses and Elijah were starting to leave, Peter, not even knowing what he was saying, blurted out, “Master, it’s wonderful for us to be here!

Let's make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”³⁴ But even as he was saying this, a cloud came over them, and terror gripped them as the cloud covered them.³⁵ Then a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him.”³⁶ When the voice finished, Jesus was there alone. They didn't tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

This piece of scripture relates the story of what is commonly referred to as the “Transfiguration.” It is considered to be the most significant event in his life between his birth and his sacrifice. Because it revealed to the disciples who he truly was.

Once again we see Luke emphasizing how important prayer was to Jesus and how much he modeled it for his disciples. He tells us that Jesus took three of his disciples, his inner circle of Peter, James, and John and took them up a mountain to pray. As he was praying his appearance began to change and his clothes became whiter than white. Then two men appeared on the mountain and began conversing with them, it was Moses and Elijah, considered to be the two most significant persons in Jewish history. Moses because of the past when he led the people out of slavery in Egypt and delivered them to the Promised Land. Elijah because he had always pointed the people back to God and it had been prophesied that he must appear again before the Messiah would appear.

They were talking about Jesus being on the verge of his own exodus. The first exodus, led by Moses had led the people out of slavery. The new exodus, which would cost Jesus his life, would lead the people out of sin.

Peter, being Peter, woke up, jumped up at what he saw and wanted to build a shrine for the three of them to use, so they could stay there. But this wouldn't work. Jesus couldn't stay there or there would be no completion of his work. He also couldn't stay there because he wasn't equal with Moses and Elijah...he was superior. These two were men, he was the Son of God and had come to do far greater deeds than either of them. He had come to save not just a people, but the whole world.

And then it happened, the disciples discovered that God was on the mountain. His cloud of presence settled on them, just as it had led the Israelites during the first Exodus, and as it had filled the Temple that Solomon had built. It settled now on the disciples who had been praying on that mountain and God spoke from the cloud telling them who Jesus really was and that they needed to listen to all he had to say. They became intimate with God because they had climbed the mountain and prayed.

IV – IT’S THE CLIMB:

You see...it’s not the mountain...it’s the climb! The mountain has always been there, God has always been there, it’s the climb that gets us to God. It’s the climb that brings us in to intimate contact with God that allows God to reveal himself to us in new and wonderful ways. And we climb the mountain by???...PRAYING!

I’m not a huge Miley Cyrus fan, but she came out with a song in 2009 that spoke to my heart the very first time I heard it. I know it’s a religious song and will speak to you if you let it. It’s called “The Climb” and I want you to pause and hear it this morning.

PLAY “THE CLIMB” VIDEO CLIP

V – CLIMB:

I want you all to make this climb. I want you all to stop playing the “where’s” game when it comes to God and climb the Holy Mountain with prayer and find him. I want you to climb higher and higher and watch him reveal himself to you in new and awesome ways. I want you to climb higher and higher and know him as intimately as possible.

Just as your kids could stop playing the “where’s” game if they were disciplined enough to lay their things out the night before, you will stop playing the “where’s” game when you become disciplined enough to make prayer a vital part of your day, each and every day.

If you do, you will be like Peter, James, and John. You will see Jesus in all his divine glory as your Lord and Savior, and you too will hear God speak to you, maybe not in a cloud, but in your heart. Keep climbing!

AMEN