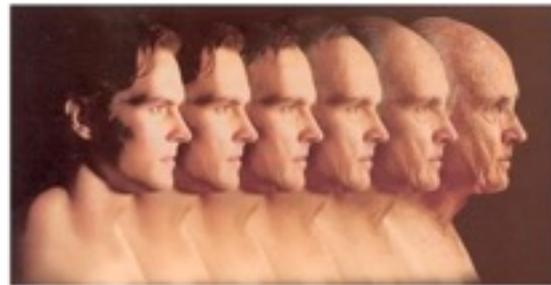


Quest Sunday 14th Feb 2021

What do these pictures have in common?



I'm hoping you picked up on the 'same thing but looking different', either due to the passage of time, or an actress in make up and costume, or the changing of a caterpillar into a chrysalis and then a butterfly (called metamorphosis), or the "changing state" of ice into water, into steam as the temperature changes.

We had a small transformation recently when we woke up to a landscape turned white with snow. One of the great things about the UK is that we get 'seasons' - winter, spring, summer and autumn. In many parts of the world there is little change from one time of year to another, or there are just 2 seasons known as the 'wet' (very rainy) and the 'dry' (no rain).

Our Bible passage for today is about the transformation or "**Transfiguration**" of Jesus. By this point in time, Jesus with his disciples had been travelling around curing many people and gathering a lot of followers; but he knew that before long he would be killed and had already hinted at this fact. Here, he takes just his closest and most trusted disciples to try to show to them how 'special' he is - he is not a new King who will save the Jews from the Romans, but the Son Of God who will be killed like a common thief.

Mark 9:2-9 The Transfiguration

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, 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 to say, they were so frightened.)

Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”

Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.



I imagine that none of us have had an experience like this, so it's quite hard for us to get our heads around it. I rather sympathise with Peter, terrified at what he saw and rabbiting on about shelters to cover his fear. It must have been astounding and I bet they all wanted to tell the rest of the disciples what they'd just seen - but Jesus said “No”. I think Jesus guessed that the others weren't yet ready for this both terrifying and amazing idea that he was the actual Son of God!!!! But he's dropping hints gradually that he is both truly not entirely of this world, and that he will die.

What can we learn and take away from this?

1. Look out for transformations around you this week - snowdrops coming out in gardens, grey days turning into sunny days.
2. How could you make transformations? Could you make someone laugh by telling them a joke, or happy by saying something nice to them? Could you transform your bedroom (and please your Mum) by tidying it up?
3. Try to think how you and your life might have been 'transformed'. All our lives are different at the moment but there might have been something you heard or read that made you stop and think. Perhaps learning more about Jesus and God has made you behave and think differently?

Jesus, give us a glimpse of your glory.
Teach us to recognise your light.
Guide us to look with your eyes.
Show us how to work with your hands.
Help us to love with your heart.
Inspire us to live your will for us.
For yours is the glory!
Amen.

