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Mark 9:2-9

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Text Mark 9:2-9
 Theme Where's Andrew?
 Subject The Transfiguration of Jesus
 Occasion 8th of Epiphany (Transfiguration) – February 14, 2020 – New Song ECUSA- Coralville

Maybe you've watched the *Food Channel* during all this time at home.

“Chopped” is one of the game shows

People compete by opening baskets with identical foods and must make a plate of food to present to the judges

Preparing for today I felt like a contestant opening the basket:

Pandemic and vaccines, Black History month, the impeachment trial, bitter cold
 All of this and so much more going on in life

I settled in with the Gospel of Mark

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the son of God.¹

As if speaking to a judge on “Chopped”,

What I have prepared for you is a stream-of-consciousness platted on Mark's message and the entre is Jesus' transfiguration

Mark reports God spoke twice:

After Jesus was baptized

You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.²

In today's reading

This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!³

These are both light-switch moments reported by Mark – 8 chapters apart

Emphatic about who Jesus prior to his going the way of the cross

People were there Saw something Heard something

Remembered it Told somebody

Somebody wrote it down Fragments held these reports

Now we have it

Believers, spectators, family, disciples were there – Who told?

Andrew lives next door.

He's a bright kid learning remotely

He was shooting hoops 4 or 5 times a day – it's his outlet

I heard the bounce/bounce last Spring and wondered – “what's that noise?”

Looked outside; it was Andrew dribbling and shooting

Always alone – sometimes a fast break from the street ending with a layup
 sometimes free throws sometimes a 3 pointer

¹ Mark 1:1

² 1:11

³ 9:7

Always the cadence: bounce, bounce, bounce
 I'd ask Lesley in the evenings, sometimes late, "Is that Andrew?"
 She'd smile, "Yup."
 In the morning when I was about to wake up, I would hear the rhythm
 Andrew? At 7 a.m.?
 No, blood pulsing in my ear
 But now, after lots of snow and in this cold snap, where's Andrew?

In the message according to Mark, Andrew was with Jesus from the beginning
 (Jesus) **saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea--Jesus said to them, "Follow me ..."**⁴

Andrew gets mentioned 3 more times
 Always with his brother Simon (Simon named Cephas or Peter)
 Matthew and Luke treat Andrew much the same:
 Each report of Jesus' transfiguration⁵
Jesus took with him Peter and James and John⁶
Where's Andrew?

Where's Andrew?

For this little while I'm supposing,
 Andrew WAS there watching/seeing; listening/hearing; remembering/telling

Where was Andrew?

Always attached to his brother BUT NOT HERE in this transfiguration account
 Suppose with me he is Simon Peter's older brother⁷
 (Much of this presumption based on Walter Tomans work *Family Constellation*)
 Older brother: Andrew – observant, respectful, cautious
 Younger brother: Peter – full of personality, bright, sensitive, impulsive
 My hunch got more inspiration when I read,
Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, ..." He did not know what to say ...⁸
 Peter IMPULSIVELY trying to be responsible
 BIG event; do something BIG
 An older brother, Andrew (?), could document this, **"He didn't know what to say"**

I know Andrews – like my older brother
 We lived in a neighborhood of boys: 20 boys – 7 little sisters

⁴ 1:16-17

⁵ Mark 9:2b - μετεμορφόομαι

⁶ 9:2a

⁷ Toman, Walter. *Family Constellation: its effects on personality and social behavior*. New York: Springer Publishing Company, 1961.

⁸ 9:5-6

It was the summer I turned 9 when Kurt, Dick, Tom and I found each other
 We all had an older brother

They were all smart, some were athletes, musicians, or in theatre
 Our parents were proud of them – no foolishness, obedient – the BIG boys
 The 4 of us needed each other – loud, creative, sensitive – ignored unless we were whining
 As 3rd graders we raised money to build A FORT
 our place for bonding, planning and sleep-outs
 The fort was 6’x6’x’6’ – made with 2x4 posts, shiplap siding, and a tar paper roof
 We painted it medium gray
 We watched out for each other, stuck up for each other, competed in class
 In high school we were athletes, singers, artists, writers, leaders
 Our older brothers were busy – but they watched; they knew what we were doing

The “Andrews” – big brothers pay attention to the little brothers

My hunch, Andrew, Simon Peter’s older brother is among those who are sources
 We need the eye witnesses to pass on the story so it can be told
 Jesus’ transfiguration necessary for message to live on, to live in us

Transfigured: from the Greek μετεμορφοῦμαι

Like the metamorphosis of a butter fly

Over time an egg to larva, to chrysalis to butterfly

Mark reports this happened to Jesus IN AN INSTANT

Away - up a high mountain –changed before their eyes

Dazzling, brilliant, radiant

Elijah & Moses showed up

These 2 and Jesus are exodus people

Elijah, parts water, exits in a fiery chariot

Moses, parts water, exits Egypt with the Hebrew people

Jesus, walks on water, exits the grave

Peter was going to build but the cloud spoke:

This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”⁹

They looked – **only Jesus**

Just Jesus in regular clothes, wearing sandals with 3 friends and a reporter

Here in the middle of Mark’s telling the good news of Jesus

The light went on for at least 3 (maybe 4) of the disciples

The voice is telling the witnesses who Jesus is AND

Listen to him

The voice puts Elijah, the prophet, and Moses, the Law giver, to the side

Listen to (Jesus)

⁹ Mark 9:7

From this event in Mark's telling, the message changes
The way of the cross gets repeated twice more
The disciples still don't catch on

From this event in Mark's telling, there is no more Messianic secret
Everyone is paying full attention to what Jesus is saying and doing
The message is clear
The light switch is flipped on
the spot light is on Jesus
Listen to Jesus; Follow Jesus

I've offered my hunch that it's Andrew reporting this story

There are other Andrews in our lives
People or events turning lights on for us
Epiphanies by their teaching or example
a new light
a new view
Listen & Follow
Learn & Witness