

Pastor Randy's short devotion for Monday, February 20th:

“He was still speaking when, behold a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.’” (Matthew 17:5)

This incident took place when Jesus led Simon Peter, James and John up a mountaintop and Jesus transfigured into his glory. Suddenly Jesus' face, hands and feet shone like a bright light, brighter than the sun and his clothes became a brilliant white. This event took place six days after Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter had answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.” Jesus blessed Peter because his confession was true. Then Jesus told his disciples what it meant that he was the Messiah, he would suffer, be killed and raised from the dead. Peter couldn't hear this difficult teaching and told Jesus, “Lord, God forbid this ever happen to you.” Then Jesus rebukes Peter, telling him to “Get behind me Satan! You are a stumbling block to me!” Six days later, Jesus lets Peter, James and John see Jesus in his glory, affirming Peter's confession. The Father claims Jesus as his Son and gives us good advice, “Listen to him.” Jesus came as God's Messiah, not to create a political kingdom to rival Rome. Jesus came to bring you into the kingdom of God. Jesus came to defeat sin and death and their power to keep you trapped in the brokenness and fear they create. Jesus is present. Jesus sets you free from sin. Jesus claims you as his beloved and will never let you go. Listen to Jesus and his claim of love.