

Trans What?
By Pastor Donald Neidigk
Series A, February 15, 2026, Transfiguration

*And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. **Matthew 17:1-3***

If you've been to church camp, you'll remember devotions around the campfire. Imagine you're there. It's dark except for the stars. The fire is yellow and crackling. We're singing gospel songs. The leader reads from the Bible and then he talks briefly. When he's done everyone holds hands and says a prayer. We take turns going around the circle. Then for a few minutes, there's total silence except for the sound of the wind rustling through the pine trees, and the snapping and popping of the fire.

As we're sitting there quietly, the speaker says to us, "*This is the last time we'll all be together in this place. It will never happen again.*" There's sadness with that realization. Suddenly we don't want camp to end. Over the course of a week at camp, we've become good friends. We know all about each other. Often, we've helped each other out on hikes. We've comforted each other when we got hurt or felt sad.

In the seventh grade at church camp, I stumbled into a cactus. The girls in the tent next to mine pulled dozens of needles out of me. We campers grew to love and care for one another. We grew in our love for Jesus. But never would we be together like that again. So, at that last campfire we stayed just a bit longer, wanting that special moment to last.

Perhaps an awareness of something like that was going on in the minds of the disciples during the Transfiguration. Toward the end of his ministry, Jesus took with him three disciples – Peter, James and John - up to the top of a mountain. Where was it? We're not told. What's important is what happened there, and how it affected the disciples.

While on the mountain, Jesus is *transfigured*. He's changed. The Greek word is *metamorphosis*. He radiates brilliant light. He appears with all the glory he has in heaven. Until then Jesus had looked like any other