

working man; rough clothes, sandals, a sunburned face, calloused hands. But for a few moments on the mountain, he glows with the fire of God.

And that's not all. Two great Bible heroes appear with Jesus in heavenly glory, Moses and Elijah; Moses the Law Giver, Elijah the Prophet. The Transfiguration is one of the most important events in the life of Jesus. Among the others are his *nativity*, his *baptism*, his *temptation*, his *crucifixion*, his *resurrection* and his *ascension*. All these events are foundational to our understanding who Jesus is and what he does for us.

There are so many Old Testament allusions here. It was on a mountain that God spoke to Moses. And here's Jesus on a mountain, with God speaking. According to Malachi, Elijah was supposed to come back before the Day of the Lord. And here he is; Elijah's back! According to the Bible and tradition, Moses and Elijah were taken bodily into heaven. Now we see them in this heavenly vision, talking with Jesus. And God speaks! This is like the Supreme Court holding session in heaven. And Peter, James and John are the only three people on earth who get invited to attend.

Peter wants this moment to last. Can you blame him? He's witnessed other miracles at the hands of Jesus; the sick healed, demons cast out, the storm stilled. But he's never seen heaven. And he's never seen Jesus look like God. Now he does. Like that closing campfire Peter wants this moment to last. He offers to build three shelters; one each for Moses, Elijah, and Jesus. Maybe he can convince them to stay. Maybe he can just walk through this portal himself into heaven and never have to come back down the mountain to this ordinary, dirty, painful world.

Not yet, Peter. The Transfiguration is not about just giving the disciples an amazing experience or a short-cut to heaven. Its purpose is to show them – *and us* - who Jesus is and what he came to do. So the vision does continue a bit longer, not because Peter wants it to last, but because there's more God wants us to know.

What might that be? *First*, God wants us to know that all the Law and the Prophets, signified by Moses and Elijah, point us to Jesus. Here they are, in heaven, affirming everything they'd previously said about the Messiah and showing us that the Messiah is Jesus.