A Reading from the Gospel of Mark 9:2–10: The Transfiguration of Jesus

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.” Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

1. Whom did Jesus take with Him and where did they go?

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2. Jesus was transfigured in front of His disciples. How does the Gospel describe this?

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3. Who else appeared with Jesus? What were they doing?

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4. What did the disciples want to do for them?

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5. Whose voice spoke from a cloud? What did it say?

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6. What did Jesus ask his disciples to do as they came down the mountain?

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Jesus’ Divinity and Humanity

Part I: Essay

Directions: Read the essay about Jesus’ humanity and divinity.

In this week’s Gospel, Jesus is revealed in all of His glory as God. His divinity shines through, literally, as a blinding light. And yet, Jesus is still Jesus. His humanity doesn’t go away. His divinity, the glory of God, whom He is fully, is made known in and through His humanity. This is part of the mystery of the Incarnation, the Son of God assuming a human nature and becoming man in the Person of Jesus Christ. How is it that Jesus is both 100% fully God and 100% fully human?

Rather than being a mystery for us to solve, the mystery of the Incarnation is a great truth that only God can make known to us. The dual nature of Christ is a profoundly beautiful reality that invites us to contemplate how great God’s love is for us – that the all-powerful God of the universe would humble Himself and become one of His creatures, a human being, in order to show us His love, be our model of holiness, and save us from sin.

During Lent, we are reminded of both the humanity and divinity of Jesus. Soon, we will memorialize Jesus’ Passion and Death on the Cross. In His humanity, Jesus suffered greatly, and poured out His life for us on the Cross. But He did not stop being God in those moments of suffering. That means that our God deeply and personally knows what it is like to be one of us, even in our greatest moments of suffering. And then, on Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead. Our God defeated death and conquered sin!

Let us reflect on these great truths of our Faith all throughout this Lenten season.

Part II: Sacred Art Reflection

Directions: Using the questions provided, reflect on the humanity and divinity of Jesus using the two paintings by Carl Bloch.

1. Take a moment to observe the first painting, The Sermon on the Mount. What first stands out to you about this painting?

2. In the Gospels, the Sermon on the Mount is the greatest example of Jesus teaching His disciples. How does this painting show us Jesus teaching?

3. How would you describe the people in the crowd and how they are relating to Jesus?

4. In what way does this painting emphasize Jesus’ humanity? What evidence of his divinity is present in the painting?
5. Take a moment to observe the second painting, *Transfiguration*. What do you first notice about this painting?

6. How is this week’s Gospel illustrated by this painting?

7. In what ways does this painting emphasize Jesus’ divinity? What evidence of His humanity is present in the painting?

8. How is this painting similar to *The Sermon on the Mount* painting? How are they different?

9. Why do you think it is important that Jesus was Transfigured?
**God and Man**

**Directions:** In the frame below, draw your own picture of Jesus that shows that He is both fully God and fully human.