

still waters

home church studies

Psalm 50.1-6

[Worship]

1 The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. 2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth. 3 Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him. 4 He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people: 5 "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!" 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge. Selah

Consider:

People have often sought encouragement from God on mountains. The summit meeting of Moses, Elijah, and Jesus with God is no exception. Moses and Elijah both experienced discouragement in their ministry and went to the mountain (Exodus 33:18f and 1 Kings 19:11f). Jesus has been under pressure, gradually moving his ministry to the margins into Gentile territory. Facing growing hostility, he is now aware that the options are narrowing and the cross increasingly inevitable.

The core group of disciples witness the moment of re-clothing. The "whiteness" symbolizes not only the presence of God in judgment (Daniel 7:9), but also the sign of the martyrs, or "witnesses" to hope (Revelation 6:11). Frightened and confused, they seek to create a memorial to the event (Mark 9:5). The voice from the cloud echoes the baptism command: Listen to him.

What a contrast Elisha is to the disciples! He has discerned that Elijah's ministry is about to end (2 Kings 2:1-12), and when asked by Elijah, "What can I do for you before I am taken from you?" Elisha answered, "Let me inherit a double share of your spirit."

It is easy to be blinded, like the disciples, by the "god of this world." Such people cannot see the shining light of Jesus' glory, the image of God. We are not invited to participate in a cult of adulation, but to receive the Spirit from God who said "Let light shine out of darkness" (2 Corinthians 4:4-5).

Reflection and Action:

Where have you been blinded toward "listening to [Jesus']" admonition to become the kingdom, and not just talk about it?



It is dangerous to go deeper than just talk. It is where we are changed, and hopefully where we gather the courage to become God's answer to the fallenness around us; becoming light to those in darkness. It will make us vulnerable and place us at risk. Where might God be driving you to a mountain of resolve and metamorphosis.

[Scripture]

2 Corinthians 4.3-6

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. 6 For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.