

# Check-in

- ✱ Follow-up on last week
  - ✱ “Aha moments”
  - ✱ Questions
  - ✱ Comments
  - ✱ Reflections



Mark 9

Practicing Transfiguration



# From “Admiring” to “Practicing” Transfiguration

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- Backward: Precedents in the Hebrew Scriptures that set a pattern for the Transfiguration described in Mark
- Forward: Transfiguration parallels at the end of Mark’s Gospel
- Around: What Transfiguration-like experiences are available to us today?

## Backward: Daniel, Moses, Elijah

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- Backward: Precedents in the Hebrew Scriptures that set a pattern for the Transfiguration described in Mark
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## Backward: **Daniel**, Moses, Elijah

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- Daniel 10:5-6, “I looked up and saw a **man clothed in linen**, with a belt of gold from Uphaz around his waist. His body was like **beryl** [which is a mineral], his face like **lightning**, his eyes like **flaming torches**, his arms and legs like the gleam of **burnished bronze**, and the sound of his words like the roar of a multitude.”
- **Mark’s Transfiguration:** Jesus’ “clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.”

## Backward: **Daniel**, Moses, Elijah

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- Daniel 10:11 the blazing figure says to Daniel, “Daniel, **greatly *beloved*, pay attention to the words that I am going to speak to you.”**
- Mark 9:7 when a voice says to the transfigured Jesus, “This is my Son, the ***Beloved*; listen to him!”**

## Backward: Daniel, **Moses**, **Elijah**

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- When Matthew and Luke retell Mark's story in their own Gospels, they both independently add that, not only were Jesus' clothes shining (as in Mark), but also that Jesus' face was shining — making the story of Jesus' Transfiguration even more like Moses' experience!
- Mark 9:2-3 says, “And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.”
- Matthew 17:2 says, “And he was transfigured before them, and his **face shone like the sun**, and his clothes became dazzling white.”
- Luke 9:29 says, “And while he was praying, the **appearance of his face changed**, and his clothes became dazzling white.”



## Mk 9: Exodus 24 as Template *[c.f. Ps 107 last week]*

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- “after six days” (Exodus 24:16 / Mark 9:2a),
- “3 named companions” (Ex 24:1,9 / Mk 9:2a),
- “ascent of Mountain” (Ex 24:9,12-13,15,18,34:4 / Mk 9:2b)
- “shining body/garments” (Ex 34:29 / Mk 9:2b-3),
- “God reveals self in cloud” (Ex 24:15-16,18 / Mk 9:7a),
- “voice out of cloud” (Ex 24:16 / Mk 9:7b).

# Mk 9 & End of Mark

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- unearthly light (9:2-3) / supernatural darkness (15:33),
- clothes illuminated (2-3) / clothes stripped (15:24),
- two saints (9:4) / two criminals (15:32,35-6),
- good to be here (5) / disciples flee (14:50),
- beloved son (7) / abandoned me (15:34).

**Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.**

**Our deepest fear is that we are  
powerful beyond measure.**

**We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant,  
gorgeous, talented, fabulous?**

**Actually, who are you not to be?**

**We were born to make manifest  
the glory of God that is within us.**

**And as we let our own light shine,  
we give other people permission to do the same.**

**-Marianne Williamson**





**IT'S HALLOWEEN?**



**I THOUGHT IT WAS REFORMATION DAY?**



- 2 Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"
- 3 He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" 4 They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her."
- 5 But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. 6 But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female.' 7 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8 and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."
- 10 Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. 11 He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; 12 and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

- Moses: allowed a husband to divorce a wife, but not necessarily for a wife to divorce a husband.
- Mark's Jesus: "What *God* has joined together, let *no one* separate"
- Used & Abused
- Further reform has continued

## **(A) “Q” Source**

- Matthew 5:32, “divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”
- Luke 16:18, “divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and whoever marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.”

## **(B) Mark adapted with changes by Matthew**

- Mark 10:11-12, “divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”
- Matthew 19:9-10, “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity, and marries another commits adultery.” His disciples said to him, “If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.”

**(C) Paul :** 1 Cor 7:10-11, “To the married I give this command – not I but the Lord – that the wife should not separate from her husband (but if she does separate, let her remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.”

## **Four different New Testament positions:**

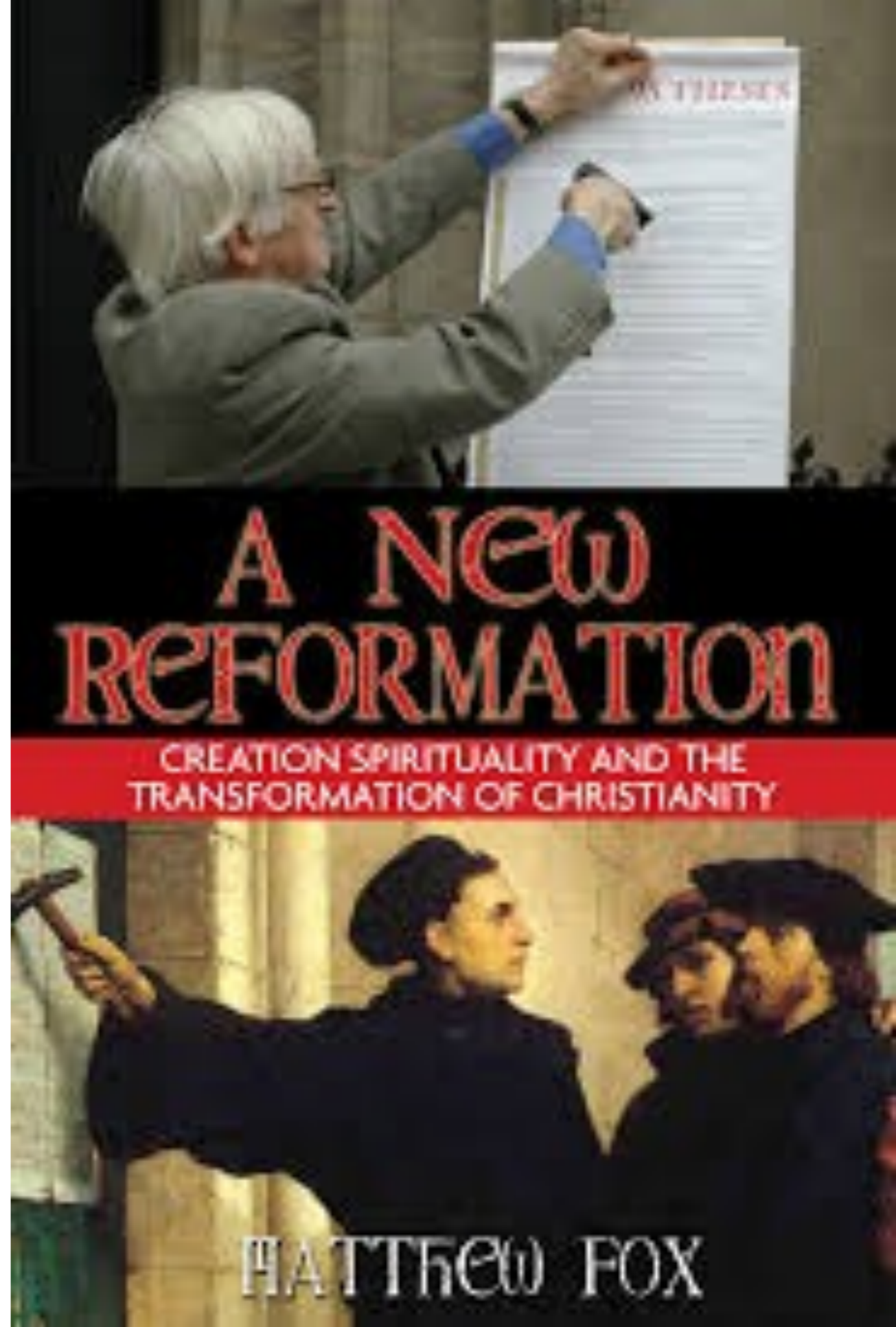
- No divorce or remarriage, either one and absolutely.
- No divorce at all, and remarriage allowed after divorce *only if* the person divorced had committed unchastity.
- Divorce forbidden unless the unbelieving spouse requests it, and in that case remarriage may be permitted for the Christian spouse, though only “in the Lord.”
- Divorce is permitted, even encouraged for the sake of “the kingdom,” but remarriage is forbidden in all cases.



- Mark 10:17 As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"
- Mark 10:18 Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? **No one is good but God alone.** (*Luke 18:19 also has Jesus saying, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone."*)
- Go(o)d / (d)evil
- Monotheism

- 19 You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not **defraud**; Honor your father and mother.'" *[Leviticus "You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning."]*
- 20 He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." 21 Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "**You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.**" 22 When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.
- 23 Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" 24 And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25 **It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.**"

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- “At this critical time in human and planetary history, when the earth is being ravaged by the violence of war, poverty, sexism, homophobia, and eco-destruction,
  - we need to gather those who offer a future that is one of compassion, creativity, and justice to speak their conscience as never before.
  - Religion ought to be part of the solution, not the problem.”



- God is both **Mother and Father**.
- **Science** can help us more deeply penetrate and appreciate the mysteries and wisdom of God in creation. Science is no enemy of true religion. Authentic science can and must be one of humanity's sources of wisdom for it is a source of sacred awe, of childlike wonder, and of truth. Fourteen billion years of evolution and unfolding of the universe bespeak the intimate sacredness of all that is.
- There is a **priesthood of all workers** (all who are doing good work are midwives of grace and therefore priests) and this priesthood ought to be honored as sacred and workers should be instructed in spirituality in order to carry on their ministry effectively.
- Loyalty is not a sufficient criterion for ecclesial office—**intelligence and proven conscience** is.
- The term "**original wound**" better describes the separation humans experience on leaving the womb and entering the world, a world that is often unjust and unwelcoming than does the term "original sin."
- The Spirit of Jesus and other prophets calls people to **simple lifestyles**. Poverty for the many and luxury for the few is not right or sustainable.
- To honor the ancestors and celebrate the communion of saints does not mean putting heroes on pedestals but rather honoring them by **living out lives of imagination, courage and compassion in our own time**, culture and historical moment as they did in theirs.
- A **diversity of interpretation** of the Jesus event and the Christ experience is altogether expected and welcomed as it was in the earliest days of the church. Therefore unity of church does not mean conformity. There is unity in diversity. Coerced unity is not unity.
- God is experienced in experiences of **ecstasy, joy, wonder and delight**. God is experienced in **darkness, chaos, nothingness, suffering, silence** and in learning to let go and let be. God is experienced in acts of **creativity**. God is experienced in our struggle for **justice, healing, compassion and celebration**.
- **Love of Life** is everyone's daily task.