Sermon: **“How good it is that we are here! We will make three tents…”** (Luke 9.33)

I’ve never taken illegal drugs. Addictive, but much of the addiction is to the effect and trying to recapture it. How similar is this to Peter wanting to hold on to the transfiguration spectacle? TEXT. (the tents attempt to keep Moses, Elijah and Jesus as they are).

This is a reaction to some experiences – a great holiday, falling in love, conversion. However, note the Law of diminishing returns.

Transfiguration is when Jesus showed his glory – what is glory? It is connected to beauty, power and awe.

It is not that Jesus suddenly received glory, but that to this point it had been veiled.

See Ex 34.29-35. Moses met God, reflected his glory, and veiled his face till that glory faded; it was only a reflection, not his own glory.

Jesus’ glory is the same glory we seen in creation, in the ministry of Jesus, and that awaiting us in heaven.

Glory is not something to be captured or preserved; it is something to be experienced in our living.

But what is it for? See what Christ does.

[1] He reveals what God (and thus the deepest reality) is like

Rest-homes. Too easily life seems routine and dull. Every day the same. True for all of us.

In Transfiguration Christ reveals the glory of God, which permeates all life, all experiences. Open your eyes!

[2] Later Jesus rebukes the remaining disciples when faced with a healing need (v41)

See Luke 9.37-43. In fairness these are the ones who did not see Transfiguration, but they have seen God’s glory in Jesus’ healing ministry before.

This ministry is for all not just Jesus. We all reflect God’s glory. Open up your mind to God’s call!

[3] Jesus shows compassion to the father and son (v42)

This calling is ours too. It is the depth and breadth of compassion that will baffle and attract others to God.

We are called to reach out to those who do not deserve compassion, those who have hurt us in the past.

A neighbour to students in Dunedin gives them cake as they arrive; when they have a loud party she tells them quietly and the cake does the trick! It is proactive love; how more powerful would it be if she kept giving despite the noise? Open your hearts to compassion!

These actions of Christ are the path of faith:

Opening our eyes to acknowledge the glory, opening our minds to God’s call, opening our hearts to compassion.

TEXT - a common response; God’s response is: **This is my Son, whom I have chosen - listen to him!** (Lk 9.35)