

**“Listen to Him!”**

<sup>ESV</sup> **Luke 9:28–36** Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”- not knowing what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

Pew Bible, Greenfield, Page 1026

Pew Bible, Winterset, Pages 1102-1103

I would like to introduce you to an amazing artist and show you an example of his artwork. His name is Dr. He Qi. He is a Chinese American Christian artist. He has been painting amazing pieces of artwork since 1983. His artwork depicts well known biblical stories painted in a distinct Chinese style. His artwork has been very well received overseas and is very popular among young people on the Chinese mainland who are drawn by the very bright colors and the subtle mixture of ancient Chinese painting techniques combined with a bold and contemporary appearance.

While Dr. He Qi's artwork certainly stands alone as an extraordinary example of modern Chinese art, his intent is ultimately evangelistic. To reach many people with the truth of the Gospel in the Lord Jesus Christ. Below is a depiction of the risen and glorified Christ. I hope you enjoy it. You may see more of Dr. He Qi's artwork at [www.heqigallery.com](http://www.heqigallery.com).

This beautiful painting certainly serves as a reminder for us this Transfiguration Sunday of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ which was shown forth at His resurrection and of which we have a glimpse at His



transfiguration. Our Lord's transfiguration is a transition point between the conclusion of His public ministry and the beginning of His passion which we begin to commemorate this coming Ash Wednesday.

The account of our Lord's transfiguration from the Gospel of St. Luke affords many opportunities for excellent sermonizing. Many wonderful and important themes come to light along with our Lord's dazzling appearance. Today, however, I would like to consider the words of God the Father who spoke from the cloud that enveloped the disciples – Peter, James, and John who were with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” The declarative statement has a clear ring from the past. Moses (who was with Jesus at His transfiguration – imagine that) spoke to the people of Israel the same words from the same God:

<sup>ESV</sup> **Deuteronomy 18:15–19** “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers— it is to him you shall listen— just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’”

God's declarative is also creative. The Father's words carry with them the power to do the very thing He says. Of our own, we do not listen to Jesus. Our sinfulness is not interested in anything Jesus has to say. Oh yes! We will listen to the voices of “experts” who will tell us absolutely everything we want to hear. Particularly today in our crazy society, we are quite likely to hear the most outlandish things you can imagine. The more extreme and bizarre, the better!

We also have a strong tendency to “listen to ourselves.” Susan and the kids can tell you they often find me talking to myself. I think part of that comes from the fact I do so much writing. I will read something (like sermons) softly to myself to make sure they “sound” the way I want them to. And that spills over into the rest of my conversations as well.

But the words of Jesus are certainly important to hear and heed. For the words of Jesus are the words of reconciliation with God. They speak of forgiveness that has come in His very passion which we begin to commemorate this week and throughout the Lenten season. The words of Jesus speak of salvation, eternal life, heaven. They speak of the glory of Christ as is depicted in Dr. He Qi's beautiful painting. For the believer in the Lord, we rejoice in the wonderful promise that Jesus is returning. And with His return, He will gather up all of the saints in the clouds and will make a new heaven and a new earth. He has set everything right. This is what Jesus says. Are you listening?

You are here in worship this morning. It is another cold and snowy morning. We've had many snowy Sundays during this record breaking winter. You have come this morning to listen. To listen to God as He has revealed Himself to us in the Holy Scriptures. You have come to listen to the life-giving words: “Your sins are forgiven.” You are the chosen people of God who live in His glory that was shown on the Mount of Transfiguration and which you will see for all eternity in heaven. Amen!