
Sermon
'Glimpses of the Kin-dom – SUPER SUNDAY'
Matthew 17:1-9

∴ ZERO ∴

*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

1 Co 1:3. (NRSV)

∴ ONE ∴

*¹ [...] Jesus took with him Peter and James and
his brother John and led them up a high moun-
tain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured
before them, and his face shone like the sun,
and his clothes became dazzling white.*

Matthew 17:1-2

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today is the last where we will focus on
'Glimpses of the Kin-dom'. And today it is SUPER
SUNDAY.

Now—I don't know what you did on the night from last Sunday 12th to Monday, 13th. Most of you would have had a good night sleep, I hope.

Some other, just like me, would have had a lot of coffee, prepared some special food and drinks and would have watched... tadaa... the Super Bowl. Because last Sunday was 'Super^{BOWL} Sunday'.

For me, Superbowl is not exactly the highlight of the year. But I think it is the one which gets the most hype.

Yes I stay up at night, prepare my self some nice food and drinks... most of it in order to keep me awake. And I will go to bed late, about 4:30 to 5:00 in the morning.

This year it has paid off, for it was a great game... with a pending outcome right to the last minute.

::: TWO :::

Although I have been following American Football now since 2018, especially for Superbowl I always think: Come on, this is just sports, just a football game—by the way 99% of the time played using hands. And the halftime shows—well, I always think like: Much ado about almost nothing...

And as I follow a team which didn't even make it to the playoffs, the most exciting game have been played quite some time ago.

However, you see this young men, being completely overwhelmed with their winning, even getting a Superbowl ring on their finger. What a hype. What a Super Sunday.

But this Sunday, where looking at a different field of play. We're looking, again, at a mount.

A mount, where something really special is happening. The mount, where Jesus is transfigured.

∴ **THREE** ∴

³ *Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.*

This is really remarkable, Jesus on this mount being transfigured—and suddenly accompanied by his peoples most famous leader and most highly regarded prophet.

Usually he keeps things really low. Like when he says: *Tell no one about it.*

But here, what a sight!

Now, as we have reached chapter 17 of 28—is this some sort of overwhelming halftime-show?

And who is this for? Is this a spectacle for Jesus himself? Or the observing disciples? Or even the visitors—Mose and Elijah?

Actually, there is no clear answer to that.

But something is clear, Peter thought, this was for him.

And he came forward with some awkward interruption...

∴ **FOUR** ∴

⁴ [...] Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.

Although it might be hard, Mr. Peter, sometimes it is better, sometimes it is appropriate, sometimes it is given to not speak quickly, but to remain silent, just watch and be overwhelmed by your experience.

I am a person who likes to observe things and explain. And I know so well the situations where I have felt like I needed to make something of a situation. And to say something valuable, something to take thing forward...

But I have learned, to sometimes, especially in worship services, to just be there, feel, listen, and be touched—by the Holy Spirit.

In the words of William H. Willimon:

“When we hear, we know not only that God has connected with us but also that God is other than us, different, distinctive.

Hearing is an encounter with otherness, not merely a projection of what’s going on inside of us. In conversation we have been turned away from our relentless scanning of our egos, our incessant soliloquy, and our ears perk up toward a word that has come to us.

We are in ecstasy, a word directly from Greek (ekstasis), meaning to stand outside ourselves, a feat so difficult for us moderns.”¹

Although I have always been such a reasonable person, I know am sure that in the presence of God, it is good to just listen, to get touched, to sing in full devotion, to open up to the Holy Spirit, touching my inner core...

And on the other hand, it is important to explain to others the nature of the Gospel of Christ.

¹ William H. Willimon, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/11478/february-19-2023-its-a-miracle> (2023-02-18).

∴ FIVE ∴

⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” ⁸ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

‘They saw nothing expect Jesus alone’. This sounds like this special moment, when the concert is over. The final applause has seized—and the doors open again for you to walk out into the evening air, back to the real world.

It is the moment from being touched, being moved by holiness, and now be up for mission...

But something very different happens for Peter, James and John...

∴ SIX ∴

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

For them, it was important to understand, that this is not the climax of the Jesus' way of life.

It was important to them to understand, that they would have the full perception of Jesus being the Christ, the Messiah, only after Easter Sunday, only after giving his life, dying and rising again.

We know all of that. So we are not to remain silent. We are to share the gospel of Christ, God's good news in our country, our city, our neighbourhood, among our colleagues, peers, and friends.

∴ SEVEN ∴

Being touched by the Holy Spirit, we are to share our compassion.

In the words of the Rev. Derek Weber:

"I love that word 'compassion.'

The implication is that the passion we feel is to be shared, that's the "com" prefix.

Our worship should do more than just give us a warm feeling in our hearts. It should transform

us to shine like the sun as we bring light and life to those around us.

Our family, our neighbors, our coworkers should know that we have been to worship.

Because they see in us the desire to listen to Jesus.

Worship is our moment to hear again the call to serve, the call to love, the call to give ourselves away.

Worship is all about Jesus, but it is at the same time all about us.

About him as the beloved Son and us as the ones drawn together in community and privileged to be able to listen to him.

That means, and I know you saw this coming from the opening paragraph,[-] for a follower of Jesus Christ every Sunday is a Super Sunday.²

::: Amen.

² Derek Weber, <https://t1p.de/28si8> (2023-02-18).