

Sermon 2012 Transfiguration  
Text: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Theme: "Blinded by the Darkness"

**Most people are afraid of the dark. We may think that we have grown out of that childhood phobia of trolls under the bed and monsters in the closet, but when the truth is told, we still avoid darkness whenever possible. How comfortable are you with going into a dark basement – especially when no one else is home? Do the willies run up your spine when you find yourself all alone in a dark alley downtown?**

**Frankly, fear of the dark is not such a bad thing when we look at it from Jesus' perspective. Jesus brings light, and without Jesus, we should indeed be very afraid. Jesus brings light to all situations so that we can see what is true and what is false. We can see the path in front of us and not wander off into oblivion. Without Jesus, the best we can do is stumble along on our own, or worse, we might be led by another, and that other will blind us with his darkness, and we will never see again.**

**It's good for us to understand the difference between light and darkness. Technically, there is no such thing as darkness because darkness is not anything in and of itself. It is simply the lack of something. That is appropriate because Satan has made a career out of convincing us that nothing is something. He convinced Adam and Eve that they needed to be more like God when they were already as close to God**

**as two human beings ever have been. He convinced Judas that he needed to betray Jesus into the hands of the Romans when Jesus had even warned the disciples that he would be betrayed.**

**See, with the Devil, it is always smoke and mirrors because all he has to work with is darkness and there is no such thing because darkness is only the absence of light. So he has to face the power of the living God and the only defense he has is slight of hand. He has to lie to us and deceive us into doing his will because he HAS NO REAL POWER AGAINST US. Imagine that you are commanding a battalion at war against a powerful enemy with all the modern weaponry. But your commanding officer tells you that sadly you have no weapons. So, you will have to convince the attacking army that you are more powerful than they are. You will have to use smoke and mirrors, lies and deception to make them so afraid that they will not attack. Or, better yet, convince them to begin attacking each other.**

**Satan has no weapons. When Jesus died on the cross, his death bought our lives. His suffering paid for our sins. Look at the wounds of Christ and there you will see your salvation. Now, if all your sins are forgiven, what weapon does the Devil have to use against you? Guilt is taken away because there cannot be guilt over sin that has been paid for. Shame is taken away. We are holy and perfect, what is there to be**

**ashamed of? We do not live as trembling naked mole rats, cowering in the darkness for fear of the light. We live as the sons and daughters of the King; forgiven, renewed, strengthened, perfected, righteous and holy. The Devil trembles when we approach him. He is a poor, miserable worm. Do not allow his darkness to blind you.**

**Darkness is the absence of light. St. Paul says that the very same God who called light into being by speaking made His light shine in our hearts. All the glory of the one true God has come to reside in YOU! And where there is that much light darkness cannot exist. Where there is that much light, we begin to see things that once we missed.**

**When something mysteriously goes missing in my home the first thing we do is get out the flashlight to begin looking in all the dimly lit places and when we shine the light around, we see things that once went unnoticed. I find lots of money. I could just about fund the power bill with the change I find under the couch. I find socks. I don't remember buying that many socks, but there they are. I find piles of dirt. Where does all that dirt come from and how does it get congregated in all the dark corners?**

**That was the experience Peter, James and John had on the Mount of Transfiguration. All at once, they saw things in a light they had never before seen. They saw Moses and Elijah and knew them! How did they**

**know it was Moses and Elijah standing beside Jesus? It's not like there were snapshots of them in the family album. They knew them because when the light of God shines on things, we see them more clearly than we ever have before. They just knew who those men were.**

**So here we are. We are filled with that same light that filled Peter, James and John. Look around. What do you see today? I see a people who are doing great work for the Lord. This congregation seems to wake up a little more every year, like a giant rousing from sleep. I think there were times in our 98 years of life when we forgot who we were. The devil wants us to believe that we are naked mole rats, scurrying for the darkness, but the darkness is not fulfilling for us and light is not threatening.**

**What would it look like around here if we all began to live our lives as people of the light, unafraid of darkness? How would our priorities change? Christ's Transfiguration light is shining into all of the corners and crevices of our lives. We are alight and on fire for him and darkness cannot withstand his light. We will not cower in dark corners afraid of life and doubting our Lord.**

**It is difficult and a little scary to light up all those dark corners, to see the piles of dirt that need sweeping away and the stray socks that need to be organized. It means we might do things we have never done**

**before. We might trade in worldly treasures. We might abandon selfish desires. We might make a commitment to God! And that is a terrifying proposition for some. What if we have no place to hide and live our lives in the blinding light of Christ? What if we lose our dark worldly hiding places for the sake of Jesus? If we believe that we are blind, naked mole rats, it is hard to act like sons and daughters of the King.**

**Well, I guess we never know how cold the water is until we take the plunge. Peter, James and John would never have seen what they saw if they had not climbed the mountain with Jesus that day. They might have opted for a more dimly lit life – a life that is not so demanding – a life with dark corners where one can just sort of hide out. Would they still have been saved? Absolutely, Jesus died for them. But we know what they would have missed. How about you? Are you ready to shine that Transfiguration light into your life? Are you ready to do things you once thought impossible? Are you ready to reprioritize your life in the light of Christ where no darkness can exist? Or are you happy just hanging with the naked mole rats, blinded by the darkness.**