

## No Matter What...God Transfigures!

Matthew 17:14-21  
February 11, 2018

"Hello Complexion Perfection!"

That was the title of an email I received from "Groupon!"

I was curious as to what a perfect complexion would look like...or what it would take for me to get a perfect complexion.

Let me just share some procedures and products that were listed on this Groupon ad.

"Facial peel!" That sounds real comforting to me...peeling the outer later of my face off my face!!!!

"Salt glow scrub" Two words that don't go together...salt and scrub. How great does an open wound feel when it hits the salt water of the ocean!

"Ultrasonic microdemabrasion!" There is no such thing as a good road rash abrasion.

"Botulinum toxin injections!" REALLY? Inject my face with toxins?

I think I will keep my imperfection complexion!

Of course one's complexion is not the only way we are being challenged to transfigure our lives. Be the new you...transfigure that old truck or car to a new vehicle.

Transfigure your wardrobe.

Wear a certain perfume or cologne and transfigure your life.

Take this pill or medicine and transfigure your health.

How have you tried to transfigure your life's complexion?

In our final, No Matter What...message we find a transfigure challenge!

Jesus and three of the disciples, Peter, James and John, had hiked up a mountain. While at the top they were given a transfiguration experience. Jesus' body was transfigured...his clothes were a dazzling white! There also appeared Moses and Elijah!

The transfiguration of Jesus that day revealed his divine nature. It was more than just a perfection complexion. Jesus was not merely a prophet. He was revealed to be the perfect Son of God. God affirmed who Jesus was and what he would do.

The disciples were told not tell others what they had experienced because they were not ready to wrap their minds around it all. They would fully understand it after His resurrection. That transfiguration would transfigure them with the power they would need to be his witnesses.

After this mountain moment of transfiguration they come back down to the valley of disappointment, the valley of disfiguration. In a hike down the mountain they go from transfigure to disfigure.

What happened?

### **D.I.Y.!**

Do you know what those three letters stand for in our culture today?

### **Do It Yourself!**

It is the method of building, remodeling or repairing things without the help of a professional.

The idea is to also save yourself some money by DIY!

There is a network to help you with ideas and helpful steps on your DIY project.

There are two major areas that I will not DIY: plumbing and electrical.

I have no problem getting the help of the professionals for those repairs or new build.

The "D.I.Y." got the disciples in a jam when Jesus came down from his transfiguration.

A concerned father approached Jesus and explained that none of the disciples were able to heal his epileptic son. The disciples could not transfigure the disfigure of the boy's situation.

The disciples were not able to transfigure the disfigure of the boy and they asked Jesus why. He pointed out to them their D.I.Y. attitude. The do it yourself or the **"disfigure in you."** There was **doubt in yourself, disappoint in you!** How often we find the disciples failing in their D.I.Y. due to lack of transfiguring prayer and faith.

Jesus pointed out to them his frustration of their D.I.Y. Their lack of faith in the power of God to move that mountain frustrated Jesus.

Jesus' purpose was not to belittle the disciples, whose D.I.Y. represented the culture of that day, but rather Jesus sought to encourage them to a greater faith, a transfigure faith.

Jesus sought to get the disciples to call on the professional faith provider to move the mountains. He wanted to take them from their **"disfigure in you"** to God's transfigure!

No matter what...God transfigures when there is no longer the D.I.Y. attitude but rather the humbling heart of obedience to God's will.

Jesus told them they only needed faith the size of a tiny seed. (Luke 17:6) Put into action the faith you have right now. Plant it in the fertile soul of trust and watch it begin to grow. Jesus told them that genuine faith germinates, takes root and grows when there is a dependence, a faith in God.

Even small and undeveloped faith would have been sufficient, when placed in God and not in oneself.

There is more power in a seed-sized faith in Jesus than there is in any of our D.I.Y. transfigure projects.

The Apostle Paul, who experienced first hand the transfiguring power and presence of Jesus, would later write the folly of D.I.Y. in comparison to Jesus' transfiguring power and presence.

***"Christ is God's ultimate miracle and wisdom all wrapped up in one. Human wisdom is so tinny, so impotent, next to the seeming absurdity of God. Human strength can't begin to compete with God's 'weakness.'"***

(I Corinthians 1:25 Message bible)

D.I.Y. can easily become the "**Disfiguration In Yourself!**"

Pride, stubbornness will keep any of us from calling on Jesus, the professional transfigurer of life, to help us in facing a mountain of a project.

When you and I are facing a problem in life that seems as big as a mountain do we D.I.Y.?

To transfigure the disfigure in our lives we need to call on the pro...Jesus!

Instead of focusing on the immovable mountain we need to, by faith, turn our eyes on Jesus. He is the mountain mover...the transfigurer.

Charles Wesley proclaimed this power of faith transfigure in his hymn "Faith, Mighty Faith."

*"Faith, mighty faith, the promise sees, and looks to God alone; Laughs at impossibilities, and cries it shall be done."*

No matter what...no matter what the mountain may be...God transfigures you and me!

But what happens with us?

We sound a lot like the boy's father.

Listen in on his conversation with Jesus and see if it sounds like something we might have said or still say to him when we face the disfigures in life.

Father: "If you can do anything, do it. Have a heart and help us.

Jesus: "IF? There are no if's among believers. Anything can happen.

Father: "Then I believe. Help me with my doubts." (Mark 9:23,24 Message bible)

Sound familiar?

Did you hear Jesus, **"IF's? There are no if's among believers!"**

How we need to hear that Jesus can transfigure our disfigure when we rely on Him through faith.

No matter what...God transfigures.

What about that **"help my doubts or disbelief!"**

We seek to want to revive or transfigure ourselves.

We then need to pray, "I don't have what it takes...I can't D.I.Y. this one Jesus."

I trust that no matter what YOU alone can transfigure.

It is not a sin to be ambitious and industrious in our faith journey with Jesus. We are to seek him in prayer, his word, service and worship. But when this ambition pushes faith, obedience and service to one side, it becomes sin. The sin of D.I.Y. faith.

No matter what Jesus can transfigure!

All of us, I am sure, find ourselves at moments of disfigure in life. The mountain is so high, or the valley is so low that we can't see the transfigure in our disfigure.

It is here we call on Jesus.

It is here we can hear him say to us the words from Diana Ross' song, "Ain't no mountain high enough."

*"If you need me call me no matter where you are!*

*No matter how far, just call my name.*

*I'll be there in a hurry, on that you can depend and never worry.*

*Ain't no mountain high enough,  
Ain't no valley low enough,  
Ain't no river wide enough,  
To keep me from getting to you."*

No matter what...God will be there for you, no matter what the disfigure mountain may be.

Through faith, even as tiny as a seed, call on Jesus and He will transfigure you.

Grow in your faith not in a D.I.Y. way.

Call on Jesus, the transfigurer!

No matter what...He transfigures!