



February 26, 2006

SERMON REFLECTION

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Discovering His Presence — Mark 9: 2-9

It is in the presence of Christ that we are afforded the ultimate “Do Over.” Today’s sermon explores how Jesus steps into our lives to wipe the slate clean. As you reflect on the sermon this week and look further at the scriptures, consider how you experience God’s presence in your everyday life.

For Personal Study

One of the signs of friendship we all seek is the friend who is ‘there for us’ in times of crisis. From a ride home from the doctor’s office, a shoulder to cry on over the loss of a family member or friend to someone who can hear our most private thoughts and understand and relate to us, we find comfort and joy in those who are there for us.

God’s presence in our lives is that ultimate ‘there for us’. It is intensely personal, and it is always available to assure us, to strengthen us, to correct us and to love us. Mountain top experiences such as the disciples had in today’s Gospel are but one way that God is present in our lives. Community worship, individual prayer, serving in His Kingdom, caring for His creation are familiar ways we can feel the presence of God.

Our challenge is to deal with a world that works to deny God’s presence in our lives, to keep us from the spiritual ‘Do Over’ that comes from His presence in our lives. We need to seek ways to refresh and renew our willingness to feel His presence in our lives. Our Christian community is one of His loving gifts to fortify us and to allow us to dwell in His presence.

Reflection questions:

Read **1 Kings 19: 1-19.**

How does God reveal His presence to you? How can you focus on finding His presence and the comfort it provides?

From mountain tops to still small voices God has a way to make His presence known to us. How many ways do you leave open

for His presence to touch you? In what ways might you let God’s presence be there for you throughout this day?

Read **Proverbs 28: 14**

The Bible tells stories of both wise and foolish people. Wise people listen to the Lord, foolish people do not. What are your challenges to listen to the Lord?

A ‘Do Over’ from God is welcomed by the wise person. How can you be wiser and experience God’s ‘Do Over’ in your life?

For Group Discussion

What counts more: mountain top experiences or still small voices? With our many needs and distractions in our lives, is God trying to bring you into His presence from a mountain top, in quiet moments, in both, in other ways?

As a member of a Christian community, how can you encourage and support God’s presence in the congregation? In the community?



