

# Getting A Glimpse

Presented by Pastor Scott Walters on 3/3/19

At Crossroads United Methodist Church

Waunakee, WI

I am always amazed at the views one gets from flying.

The American Eagle flights out of O'Hare at dusk;

Glimpse of the tollway – of major roads; Rockford.

A completely different perspective.

Little wonder then that the Bible speaks of mountains as places of  
revelation.

Today, Jesus leads 3 of his disciples up a mountain – and everything

Changes –even the appearance of their clothing

Who Jesus is revealed in a new way: Law & Prophets.

Language begins to fail.

Peter wants to fix this moment forever; let's build 3 tents: You-Moses  
Elijah.

Then a cloud overshadows them: "This is my Son; listen to him."

Put down your tent pegs; don't do; don't talk; don't plan.

Listen.

Sometimes the most valuable thing we are given is a new way of  
looking at something that's very familiar.

After the Transfig. is over and the voice stops, and there is silence,

Jesus stands alone on the mountain top and then the disciples  
come down with him.

When they get down, there's a crowd waiting for them.

Thomas Merton had an experience like that on March 18, 1958 in Louisville; 4<sup>th</sup> & Walnut.

*"In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. ... This was such a relief and such a joy to me that I almost laughed out loud... I have the immense joy of being man, a member of a race in which God Himself became incarnate. As if the sorrows and stupidities of the human condition could overwhelm me, now I realize what we all are. And if only everybody could realize this! But it cannot be explained. There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun."*

Thomas Merton realized that living a holy life may not be life in a  
monastery, but in and amongst the people of God.

That's the challenge I think we have as a church.

## Getting A Glimpse

To realize that our focus should not be on ourselves; but on others.

That our worship offers us a new perspective that we can offer to whom we will meet this week.

Can you give up your seat for someone else?

Can you introduce yourself to someone you don't know rather than  
talking with the usual gang?

Can you forgive that guy that cut you off in the roundabout?

Can you see that person who you don't know as a valued child of  
God?

That is the challenge placed in front of our church;

That's the challenge placed in front of Crossroads UMC;

That's the challenge placed in front of each one of us.

And so we listen. And so we see. And so we believe.