

Exodus 34:29-35

29 Moses came down from Mount Sinai.

As he came down from the mountain
with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand,
Moses did not know
that the skin of his face shone
because he had been talking with God.

³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses,
the skin of his face was shining,
and they were afraid to come near him.

³¹But Moses
called to them;
and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation
returned to him,
and Moses spoke with them.

³²Afterwards
all the Israelites came near,
and he gave them in commandment
all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.

³³When Moses had finished speaking with them,
he put a veil on his face;

³⁴but whenever Moses went in before the LORD
to speak with him,
he would take the veil off,
until he came out;

and when he came out,
and told the Israelites what he had been commanded,
³⁵the Israelites would see the face of Moses,
that the skin of his face was shining;

and Moses would put the veil on his face again,
until he went in to speak with him.

Reading the Torah This Week

We get Moses' shining face,
Veiled after he speaks the law the first time,
Then as he enters the presence, and after he speaks

We'll be using the UCC 100th anniversary UCW service
So we'll hear 1 Samuel 3, as in 2024 or 2018...

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2024/01/whose-calling.html>

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2018/06/my-call-your-call-gods-call-1-samuel-3.html>

Take a few minutes to engage the whole chapter 24:

<http://www.hereticslikeus.com/2022/03/marking-covenant-exodus-24.html>

Compare this match of Torah with Luke's Transfiguration

Year A: Ex 24:12-18, Mt 17:1-9

Year B: 2 Kings 21:1-12, Mark 9:2-9

Moses is the type to help construe Jesus' transfiguration

In either case what's the claim –
that we are transfigured,
or that we can see that they are?

Who and what have you seen
An epiphany, mundane made sublime,
With metaphors of 'shining' or 'glowing'?

I only tried this twice this century, weakly:

Transfiguration 2013:

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2013/02/change.html>

Transfiguration 2022:

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2022/02/veiled.html>

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

¹² Since,
then,
we have such a hope,
we act with great boldness,

¹³ not like Moses,
who put a veil over his face
to keep the people of Israel from gazing
at the end of the glory
that was being set aside.

¹⁴ But their minds
were hardened.

Indeed,
to this very day,
when they hear the reading
of the old covenant,
that same veil is still there,
since only in Christ
is it set aside.

¹⁵ Indeed,
to this very day
whenever Moses is read,
a veil lies over their minds;

¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord,
the veil is removed.

¹⁷ Now
the Lord
is the Spirit,
and where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom.

¹⁸ And all of us,
with unveiled faces,
seeing the glory of the Lord
as though reflected in a mirror,
are being transformed
into the same image
from one degree of glory to another;
for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

¹ Therefore,
since it is by God's mercy
that we are engaged in this ministry,
we do not lose heart.

² We have renounced
the shameful things
that one hides;
we refuse to practise cunning
or to falsify God's word;
but by the open statement of the truth
we commend ourselves
to the conscience of everyone
in the sight of God.

Reading the Epistle This Week

I've declined to preach this one this century –
Though a dozen times on 2 Corinthians (cc.12, 4, 5, 6)
Relying on Canadian Ernest Best's 1987 commentary for those

Paul corresponded with Corinth – back and forth
We get one side of the exchange – on various issues
In 2 Cor, likely excerpts of a couple of Paul's letters

Let's take this text in context of 2:14-7:4
How will Paul, and in turn Corinth and us,
Mediate or communicate from mundane to sublime?
He's coming to 'earthen vessels' next in c.4

The argument about how to construe Moses' veil tales
Is vulnerable to anti-Semitic tropes
When Paul writes as a Jew affirming Torah,
Encouraging 'us' to remove our own veil

v.16b was a popular 'bumper sticker' slogan,
back when the UCC still included charismatic folks,
our roots in the 'holiness' movement

4.1-2 got more mileage in our 'sex wars' of the 80's
Both in celebration of coming out
And in denouncing of those still shamed and closeted
In glib liberal trust that given light and air truth will prevail

Luke 9:28-36, (37-43)

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings
Jesus took with him Peter and John and James,
and went up on the mountain to pray.

²⁹ And while he was praying,
the appearance of his face changed,
and his clothes became dazzling white.

³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men,
Moses and Elijah, talking to him.

³¹ They appeared in glory
and were speaking of his departure,
which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

³² Now Peter and his companions
were weighed down with sleep;
but since they had stayed awake,
they saw his glory
and the two men who stood with him.

³³ Just as they were leaving him,
Peter said to Jesus,
'Master, it is good for us to be here;
let us make three dwellings,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'
—not knowing what he said.

³⁴ While he was saying this,
a cloud came and overshadowed them;
and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.

³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said,
'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!'

³⁶When the voice had spoken,
Jesus was found alone.

And they kept silent
and in those days told no one
any of the things they had seen.

(³⁷ On the next day,
when they had come down from the mountain,
a great crowd met him.

³⁸Just then
a man from the crowd shouted,
'Teacher, I beg you to look at my son;
he is my only child.

³⁹Suddenly a spirit seizes him,
and all at once he shrieks.
It throws him into convulsions
until he foams at the mouth;
it mauls him and will scarcely leave him.

⁴⁰I begged your disciples to cast it out,
but they could not.'

⁴¹Jesus answered,
'You faithless and perverse generation,
how much longer must I be with you
and bear with you?
Bring your son here.'

⁴²While he was coming,
the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions.

But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit,
healed the boy,
and gave him back to his father.

⁴³And all were astounded
at the greatness of God.)

Reading the Gospel This Week

Enjoy Luke's version of Transfiguration this year –
(we'll miss it, following the UCC 100th service from UCW)

Luke mostly matches Matt/Mk,
Placing Transfig between 1st and 2nd passion prediction

Sure, we get the type and examples –
Moses, Elijah, Jesus
How do they straddle or bridge
For us to share, or simply to observe?

Notice the 'sleepy disciples' addition –
Setting up a replay in Gethsemane in Luke 22
Directed surely at Luke's community and us in turn!

I only seemed to use the Torah in Year C twice this century,
but appear to repeatedly try Luke's version of Transfiguration,
in 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019, and 2022:

[http://www.billbrucewords.com/2007/02/poker-faced-transfiguration-luke9.h
tml](http://www.billbrucewords.com/2007/02/poker-faced-transfiguration-luke9.html)

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2010/02/vision-plans.html>

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2013/02/change.html>

[http://www.billbrucewords.com/2016/02/dozing-off-through-transfiguration.
html](http://www.billbrucewords.com/2016/02/dozing-off-through-transfiguration.html)

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2019/03/who-do-you-say-that-i-am.html>

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2022/02/veiled.html>