



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Interview with Pastor Rich
Speakers: Pete Scazzero, Pastor-at-Large & Rich Villodas, Lead Pastor
Scripture: Mark 9:2-9

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Mark 9:2-9 (NIV)

Sermon Outline:

Two movements of the spiritual life: Jesus takes his followers up to a high mountain, then He brings them down the mountain.

Four words that encapsulated Pastor Rich's Sabbatical:

Distance from an addicted world. Felt the physical distance, virtual distance from social media, and distance from self.

- Social media often gives us the illusion that we can take on attributes that only belong to God: omnipresence (everywhere at the same time), omniscience (know all things) and omnipotence (use words to make it a power play).
- Distance from myself, which allowed for an awareness of own performance.

Presence in a distracted world.

- Can only be truly present if you cultivate distance.
- We live in a continuous state of partial attention, we are consistently being distracted.

Silence in a noisy world.

- Is a massage for the soul.
- Prayer is not about getting what you want but allowing God to love you for who you are.

Forgiveness.

- We are to be marked by forgiveness and look different than society.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday Pete Scazzero interviews Pastor Rich on his Sabbatical.

Sermon Questions

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, was it hectic or slow? What were constant distractions in your household? Were there practices to be present with the family or was that not a thought? How did forgiveness work in your family?
3. What distracts you in your life today and prevents you from being present with others?
4. Do you make times for silence throughout your week, your day? Do you think it is needed or important?
5. What would our lives look like if it were marked with forgiveness in a way that shapes and forms us? Who might you need to forgive or ask forgiveness from?
6. Share a time you felt you were up the mountain in your walk, and what it felt like coming down.