

Listen

Matthew 17:1-9

Center Church, Hartford

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Well, God certainly got Peter and James and John's attention! After the amazement of seeing Jesus glowing brighter than the sun, then talking with Moses and Elijah (both of whom had had one on ones with God in their lives), a great cloud covered the place and the voice of God rang out all around them!

And what did God say?

God did not say, "believe in him."

God did not say, "worship him."

God did not say, "wield him as a weapon in the culture wars."

God did not say, "put his picture up on your wall and then ignore him."

God did not say, "post memes of him on social media, encouraging people to repost in order to receive a special blessing."

God did not even say (sorry choir), "sing praises to him."

God said: "This is my son; one with me. He is utterly amazing. Listen to him."

Listen to him.

Okay, so what did Jesus say?

(Select scriptures read, including Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, 38-42, 43-44, 7:1, 7, 12, ending with "love one another as I have loved you.")

In the book *Alice in Wonderland*, a character called the White Rabbit says to Alice, "Don't just do something, stand there!" Don't just do something, stand there. This Lent, let us challenge ourselves not to give up something, but rather to stand there, sit there, lie there, be there and listen to Jesus. Read the Bible. Listen to the words of Jesus in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Every day choose a verse and just spend time in quiet listening to the verse and to what God may be saying to you through it.

Don't just do something, stand there. Listen to Jesus. Amen.