

Lectionary readings: 2 Kings 2: 1-12; Psalm 50: 1-6; 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6; Mark 9: 2-9

### For reflection and prayer

- **2 Kings 2:** Here we get a glimpse into the deep desires of Elisha's heart: that the Spirit of God who indwelt Elijah might dwell in Elisha too, that he will have the same single-mindedness as Elijah, that he will be holy (set apart for God) as Elijah. Elisha wanted to stay close to Elijah, to spend time with him, imbibe his spirit and become like him. This seems to me to be a picture of what God requires of us - to stay close to God, to be filled with His life, to take on His characteristics. As we reflect this week on what the deep desires of our hearts are, may God kindle in us the desire to be like Him.
- **Psalm 50:** The Psalmist speaks of God, who is Love, *'radiating out to all the nations, perfect in beauty'*. (v2) *'The Beloved's Indwelling Presence guides those who hear with their hearts.'* (Psalms for Praying v6) Are we opening our heart to God? Have we eyes to see God's beauty? Are we radiating God's light and beauty from our lives? May we allow God to shine upon us this week and light up our lives with His life and love that others may see God in us and seek Him.
- **2 Corinthians 4:** Jesus *'gives us the best picture of God we'll ever get.'* (v4 The Message) Jesus is the One we have to share; it's not about us. But we are part of the message as we allow God to light up our lives and let His beauty shine forth from us. God said, 'Light up the darkness.' And we have to let God light up the dark

areas of our life - cynicism, hardness of heart, unforgiveness, a critical, judgmental spirit, lack of love etc. We have first to be willing to acknowledge what is in us and let God change us so that the light of His presence shines from us.

- **Mark 9:** There's a sense in which what happened on the Mt of Transfiguration will remain a mystery to us. It's as if the disciples get a glimpse of heaven and see God's glory shining through Jesus in such a way that He is transformed. Then they hear the voice of God: *'This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.'* (v7) So, as we meet God in Jesus, and listen to Him, may we allow God to transform us. We need to follow Jesus down the mountain, as the disciples did, into the mess and confusion, the pain and suffering of our lives. There is no situation that can't be transfigured by God. So let's bring God into the midst of our lives this week and let the glimpses of God's glory, that He has been gracious to impart to us, give us courage in the valley of despair so that it becomes a door of hope.

### A prayer

May we, Your people, be full of Your glory, Lord, as we open our hearts to You. May the beauty of each one of us, made in Your image and likeness, be brought to perfection as You light up our lives. May Your Holy Spirit give us hearts full of compassion and love, courage and faithfulness, even when the road is hard. May we be people of peace, people who affirm and encourage others, people whose lives are lit up by Your presence so that we shine like lamps in a dark world. Lord, illumine our darkness, forgive our sin, renew our hope and fill us with Your glory that we might reflect that glory in our everyday lives wherever we are. Amen.