

GALILEE PODCAST - INTERVIEW WITH EYEWITNESS of the TRANSFIGURATION

(Eyewitness: John the disciple)

INTERVIEWER You are listening to the Galilee Podcast where we have been following the story of the itinerant preacher Jesus who first appeared in the area around two and half years ago.

Well John, rumour has it that something strange happened to you and your friends today?

JOHN: It certainly did, although I'm not really supposed to be telling anyone about it – you'll keep it a secret, won't you?

INTERVIEWER: Of course, I'm a journalist. So, can you tell us who you were with...

JOHN: Mmm, well ... here is what happened...Jesus, the one who has been getting in trouble with the religious leaders, he invited 3 of us to go up the mountain with him. He often goes into the hills above the sea of Galilee to pray and be alone...but this time he asked the three of us to go along with him. So there we are, me, my brother James and then of course, Peter. We were all wondering if Jesus was alright. He has been saying some strange things in the last week or so like how he was going to be killed and raised up on the third day.

INT: That is very strange. And, how did you react to him saying that?

JOHN: Peter had spoken to him saying that would never happen. But Jesus talked as if he really expected it to happen and that there was nothing anyone could do about it. Almost like it was meant to be...it was very strange.

And before that he had asked all of us who we thought he was. It took us a while to understand what he meant. Some of us said perhaps he was Elijah or one of the other prophets, perhaps Moses? But it was Peter, good old Peter – huh! you never know what is going to come out of his mouth – anyway, it was Peter who hit the nail on the head – 'You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God'.

‘You got it in one’ says Jesus, ‘and not through your own brains, I’m sure of that! That knowledge can only come from God’.

He had also spoken about how some of us would see the Kingdom of God come in power before we died.

I think the three of us were trying to make sense of these things as we walked up the mountain side.

INT: So what happened?

JOHN: well, Jesus stopped and invited us to pray with Him. So there we are, on our knees on the mountain side high above the sea of Galilee ... I remember squinting to see if I could find, our village, way down in the distance on the lake shore...

Suddenly, something amazing happened. When we looked at Jesus his face began to shine like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. We couldn't believe our eyes.

Then we saw two other men appear next to him, talking with him. They looked like we imagined Moses and Elijah, the great prophets of old to look ...you know, long flowing robes and white beards...It was unbelievable!

INT: That sounds amazing...so what did you do?

(nervous laugh) We didn't do anything... we were speechless ...terrified. Then Peter, without thinking of course, suggests we make 3 tents – one for Jesus, one for Moses and one for Elijah.

(shaking head, exasperated smile) I don't think Jesus thought much of that idea!

(Becoming serious) But before he could say anything, a cloud hovered over us and this beautiful voice came from above

INT: A voice? what did it say?

JOHN: It said "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" *(looks away distractedly as if thinking about the moment...)*

INT: and then what?

JOHN: What do you think we did? We fell on our faces, awestruck...and then Jesus came and gently touched us and said "Get up and do not be afraid".

INT: that's a pretty powerful story...any idea what it was all about?

JOHN: I'll have to think about that....

INT: Bye folks, and don't miss the next Galilee Podcast...

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