

2nd Sunday of Lent, 12 March 2017

"This is My beloved Son on Whom My favour rests. Listen to Him."

Reading 1: Gen 12:1-4
Reading 2: 2 Tim 1:8-10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22
Gospel : Mt 17:1-9

Gospel Reading: Mt 4:1-11

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead."

Meditation:

Jesus had told his apostles about the sufferings and humiliations which he was going to undertake as part of his mission to save the world. Peter was outraged with the Jews and wanted to protect me but Jesus strongly forbade him because whatever Jesus did was always in accordance with the Will of his Heavenly Father. The other apostles did not fully understand his words, since they could not imagine that something as tragic as his predicted death could occur. They had seen his miracles, they knew who Jesus was. His remaining days on earth were few and Jesus wanted to impress upon them the knowledge of his divinity. And it was so disposed by the Divine Will that on that night when his three favorite apostles Peter, John and James went with him to the mountain for prayers, Jesus became transfigured before them. They had the opportunity to look at his divine countenance illuminated by the dazzling light of his being, his entire body radiated light, now they really understood that Jesus was "the light of the world, the sun of justice".

To testify of his spiritual connection with the past Jesus was seen with Moses and Elijah. To make this a testimony of God, his Heavenly Father was heard saying "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" No greater consolation could his apostles have in their lifetime, it was a joy that brought renewed courage, enthusiasm and faith to their hearts, which soon would be torn with sorrow for his imminent passion and death. During the time of the transfiguration Peter said, Lord, it is good for us to be here. And Jesus assures us: it is really good for anyone to come into his Presence and experience the light of his being. It is most rewarding to the soul to seek moments of solitude and prayer in which Jesus comes to radiate his light, to give consolation, to strengthen the faith and to share his divinity. Although we may not see him physically as the apostles did, we can be assured that we are never alone when we pray, Jesus is always ready to listen.

The Lord in His love is saying something to us. The Lord's words are "spirit and life" (Jn 6:63). What He is saying is life-giving, life-saving, and full of love. What He is saying is also "over your head," as high as the heavens are above the earth. His word is not beyond our intellect as much as beyond our love. He loves us much more than we love ourselves and infinitely more than we love others and are loved by others. Because of His love for us, the Lord says things to us which seem outrageous. For example, He told the seventy-five-year-old Abram to leave his homeland and go off to "who knows where". Through Paul, the Lord told a hurting Timothy to bear his "share of the hardship which the gospel entails". It was hard for Timothy and Abram to hear such things. Likewise, it will be hard for us. The Lord in His love is saying something to you. It's probably about the cross again. Will you listen in love this Lent?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

1. Are you spiritually awake? How are you preparing yourself during this Lent to see the Lord's glory?
2. Have you listened to Jesus? What has he said to you in the past week and what have you done?

Lord Jesus, keep me always alert to you, to your word, your action, and your constant presence in my life. Let me see your glory."

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