



Gospel reading: Matthew 17:1–9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched

them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

***Two key Old Testament figures, Moses the Lawgiver and Elijah the Prophet.**

Brief commentary:

Today we hear a story we know so well - the story of the transfiguration of Jesus. The transfiguration reflects Jesus's divinity. Jesus is the Son of God who manifests his glory to three of his disciples. His appearance changed as it also did in his glorified body after the resurrection. Matthew's narrative follows the first prediction of Jesus' Passion and the conditions of discipleship, in which Jesus teaches his disciples that he will have to suffer greatly. Placing the story of the Transfiguration after his first Passion prediction reveals that, while Jesus is the Messiah, his triumph will come through his suffering and death.

Peter wants to capture the moment by keeping Jesus, Moses and Elijah there with them. However, Matthew does not allow his readers to linger on the mountaintop. Jesus knew that they would have difficulty accepting his suffering and death. Consequently, He tells them not to get too excited about the glory of the transfiguration event until after He has risen from the dead.

Today's reading offers three significant messages:

- The presence of Moses and Elijah is a sign that Jesus will fulfil the expectations of the Hebrew people.
- The revelation of the glory of God climaxes with a voice from the clouds as in Jesus' baptism. He is God's Son and we need to listen to him.
- The goal of the Christian is not just to know "about" God, but to know God through direct experience.

A Thought

The story of the transfiguration directs us away from trying to understand Jesus only as he is revealed in glory. It points us down the mountain and invites us to walk with Jesus into the suffering, hungry crowds. The divine voice commands us to listen to Jesus. But listening is more than hearing. As Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount, building on the rock means not only hearing his words, but acting on them (Matthew 7:24). Hearing without putting the gospel message into action is a catastrophe.

Jesus was transfigured. He was changed. Rays of light came from his body like the rays of sunshine come from the sun. His clothes were dazzling white. Each time God forgives you, He sends rays of love, dispels fear and brings peace. When you forgive others, show love to others you send rays of love to their souls. Forgiveness and love fills your body and soul with peace and happiness!! Spread a little joy and happiness this week by remembering to say - Please, Thank you & Sorry!!

For our shared or personal reflection:

After a brief pause for silent reflection share your answers, ideas or feelings.

- Do I expect only moments of glory from God? Do I remain faithful when things are not going my way?
- Am I willing to walk with others in their moments of suffering?
- "It is good for us to be here ..." Who helps you notice the good things that are happening around you?
- "Let me make three tents ..." When have we wanted to stay longer, to savour an experience?
- "As they were coming down from the mountain..." When have you returned to day-to-day life after a special experience? What challenges did you face?
- "Arise, and do not be afraid..." When have we found the strength and courage to get up after a fall? Who helped us find this strength, courage and hope?

Suggested readings: Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs 151; 444; 459; 552-556; 649.