

**BIBLE STUDY**  
**February 27, 2023**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Genesis 12: 1-4a**

**Matthew 17: 1-9**

**2 Timothy 1: 8b-10**

**1. The Old Testament Reading during Lent**

	<b>Cycle A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Adam and Eve</b>	<b>Noah</b>	<b>Israel in Desert</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Call of Abraham</b>	<b>Isaac</b>	<b>Covenant with Abraham</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Massah and Meribah</b>	<b>10 Command.</b>	<b>Call of Moses</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Call of David</b>	<b>Exile and Return</b>	<b>Passover in PL</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ezekiel</b>	<b>Jeremiah</b>	<b>Isaiah</b>

**2. Genesis 12: 1-4a**

- The call of Abram. God reveals himself to Abram (whose name God will later change to Abraham). This is a major moment in Salvation History. God chooses to reveal himself. He makes himself known to his creation.
- God calls him to set out on a journey without a specific destination named except for "to a land I will show you." This is a paradigm of life. We are all on a journey. We know not the particulars, but we trust in God to show the way.
- God promises that he will make Abram a great nation with God's protection. All the nations of the earth will be blessed through Abram. Therefore, Abram is the father in faith of Jews, Christians, and Muslims.
- Abram obeys and sets out on the journey. He does not know where he is going. He trusts in God who calls him, and he obeys in faith. He is our model for belief and trust in God.

**3. Matthew 17: 1-9**

- Previously, in Matthew 16: 13-23, Peter has made a confession of faith that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus follows that up with the proclamation of his suffering, death, and resurrection in Jerusalem. Peter struggles to reconcile these two poles of Jesus as Son of God and a suffering Messiah. The disciples have six days to mull this over when Jesus takes Peter, James, and John with him up the mountain. Mountains are the location of divine revelations of theophanies.
- The glory of Jesus as Son of God is revealed his face that shone like the sun and his clothes which were brilliantly white. This transfiguration is a revelation of God the Father that what Jesus is saying about his identity as Messiah and his destiny to suffer is true and that the disciples should listen to it and believe.

- Jesus travels in both heavenly and earthly spheres. He is as comfortable speaking with Moses and Elijah as he is with Peter, James, and John. Moses and Elijah are present because they represent the Law, and the Prophets of which Jesus is the fulfillment. They both experienced theophanies of God and they had a close relationship with God.
- Peter attempts to speak and remarks that it is good for them to be there and to witness this extraordinary vision. He offers to build tents. Why? To try and prolong the experience. He is reminded of the tent of meeting where the glory of God rested in a cloud. It is a reference to the Jewish feast of Booth, a harvest feast that was connected to the hope and expectation of the coming of the Messiah. Whatever, he meant, Peter struggles to respond to this other worldly experience.
- The voice of God tells the meaning of the vision. God the Father approves of Jesus and certifies his teaching of the suffering, death, and resurrection of the Messiah. When Jesus identifies and aligns himself with God's people, e.g., at his Baptism when he identifies with the desire for forgiveness of the people, and now, when he proclaims that he will suffer and die to redeem God's people from sin and death, God the Father expresses his love and approval of his Son. As the disciples struggle to understand, God the Father intervenes to bolster their faith.
- The mystical experience ends with their seeing only Jesus. Jesus is both Son of God in glory and Son of God in his humanity. The disciples must not tell anyone because people will not understand. They will rush to the glory without embracing the Cross. No one can understand God's glory without also experiencing his suffering on the Cross.

#### **4. 2 Timothy 1: 8b-10**

- Paul urges Timothy to be courageous in proclaiming the Gospel, and not to be ashamed of it or afraid to proclaim that Jesus died on a cross, and Paul is a prisoner. The Gospel says that we must share in the suffering of Christ to share his glory. Timothy must embrace the suffering that comes with preaching the Gospel and depend upon the strength that God will provide.
- God has saved us and called us to a holy life, i.e., to share in his own divine nature. This is not because we deserve it and have earned it. It is due to God gift and grace. This is a plan that God had from the beginning of time and is now revealed in Jesus who has shown forth the mystery of Immortality after death. That eternal life will triumph over suffering and death is the Gospel. It is the Good News that Jesus has brought to light.