

## Lent 2B - 2021

### **"It's kind of hard to explain."**

A little boy asked his mother, "Marriage makes you have babies, doesn't it, Mom?" The mother reluctantly answered her son, "Well, not exactly. Just because you are married does not mean that you have a baby." The boy continued his inquiry: "Then how do you have babies?" His mother, not very enthusiastic about continuing, answered, "It's kind of hard to explain." The boy paused and thought for a moment. He then moved closer to Mom, looked her right in eye, and carefully said, "You don't really know how it works, do you, Mom?" (Pastor's Story File, October 1995; submitted by Jim Pearring, New Harbor Community Church, Benicia, California).

The Transfiguration of Jesus. Is one of those, "What does that mean and how am I supposed to explain that?" sort of passages.

In C.S. Lewis' sermon *The Weight of Glory*, he suggests there are no *ordinary* people. Rather, he says, "It is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit--immortal horrors and everlasting splendors." In the midst of Christian neighbors, Lewis goes on to say, we move among those who bear the mark of the Christ, "the glorifier and the glorified, Glory Himself, [who] is truly hidden [in them]."

### **Transformation of a young man with a sense of duty:**

Years ago, in a small fishing village in Holland one night, the winds raged, and a gale force storm capsized a fishing boat at sea. Stranded and in trouble, the crew sent out the S.O.S. The captain of the rescue rowboat team sounded the alarm. While the team launched their rowboat, and fought their way through the wild waves, the villagers waited restlessly on the beach. An hour later, the rescue boat reappeared through the fog and the volunteers reported that the rescue boat could not hold any more passengers and they had to leave one man behind.

Frantically, the captain called for another volunteer team to go after the lone survivor. Sixteen-year-old Hans stepped forward. His mother grabbed his arm, pleading, "Please don't go. Your father died in a shipwreck 10 years ago and your older brother, Paul, has been lost at sea for three weeks. Hans, you are all I have left." Hans replied, "Mother, I have to go. What if everyone said, 'I can't go; let someone else do it?' Mother, this time I have to do my duty." Hans kissed his mother, joined the team and disappeared into the night.

Another hour passed, which seemed to Hans' mother like an eternity. Finally, the rescue boat darted through the fog with Hans standing up in the bow. Cupping his hands, the captain called, "Did you find the lost man?" Barely able to contain himself, Hans excitedly yelled back, "Yes, we found him. Tell my mother it's my older brother, Paul!" (Fr. Botelho).

### **"I have seen the face of the pilot."**

Robert Louis Stevenson tells the story about a ship that was in serious trouble in a storm. A passenger on that ship, defying orders, made his way to the pilot, who seeing the fear on the passenger's face gave him a smile of assurance. Relieved, the traveler returned to his cabin and said, "I have seen the face of the pilot. He smiled, and all is well."

There are times in life when we need to see our pilot face-to-face. That's what happened in this mystical story that the Church calls the Transfiguration of Christ. Peter, James and John were there. Moses and Elijah showed up from the past. They had an experience that was mystical and out of this world. What would a glimpse of Christ himself mean to you today?

### **Why Do You Go Every Sunday?**

A young woman asked her older co-worker: "Why do you go to church every Sunday? Does something happen there that can't happen somewhere else? And does it happen every Sunday?" The older woman replied, "What happens is I go to meet the God whom I've come to know in Jesus.

God meets me in other settings than at church. However, I must confess that I'm sure I miss most of God's appointments with me. I find that I live most of my days in a daze - as though I'm sleepwalking or on autopilot. I go to church to be reminded that that's true."

The younger woman then asked, "So you go to church every week and God meets you there?" The older woman answered, "I go to church every Sunday and for reasons I can't explain, I meet God about 1 in every 8 worship services." The younger woman asked, "Then why do you go every Sunday?"

"I go every Sunday," said the older woman, "because I never know when that one Sunday is going to be." (by Mike Ripski from *Collected Sermons*, [www.Sermons.com](http://www.Sermons.com))