

Second Sunday of Lent
February 25, 2018

On this second Sunday of Lent, I would like to focus my attention on the Gospel reading from Mark 9:2-10. This Gospel account is the Transfiguration. God understood the need for the disciples (in this case, Peter, James and John) to witness Jesus in a “transfigured” state in order to help prepare them for the coming of his passion and resurrection. As is so common in the Bible, there is much symbolism depicted in these verses.

At the Transfiguration, Jesus appeared in glory with Moses and Elijah. During their lives, Moses and Elijah had encounters with God on a mountain top. In the book of Exodus, God spoke to Moses from a burning bush on Mount Horeb. Similarly, in 1 Kings, God spoke to Elijah who was also on Mount Horeb. In both of these encounters, Moses and Elijah stood on holy ground and they hid their faces when they realized that God was present. Today, as we read about the Transfiguration, we find once again an encounter with God on a mountain top. Though the encounters are different, in all three cases we witness God’s presence. Moses had the burning bush; Elijah had a whisper of a gentle breeze; and Peter, James and John had the transfigured Jesus and the voice of God from the cloud. In all three instances, these men of God are struck with fear and awe.

It is also important to note the presence of the Trinity during the Transfiguration. The voice from heaven is the voice of God. The Son stands before his disciples transformed in His glory. And the Spirit overshadows them as the cloud. This is another example of symbolism reminding us of our Baptism. The Transfiguration is also a look into our future and to our own death and resurrection when we, too, will be like Christ in glory.

Like the disciples, we need to come down from the mountain and face our everyday trials and sufferings of life. We, too, need to become his disciples. To see, we need to look at Jesus. To hear, we need to listen to his words. To experience, we need to open our hearts and our minds to his presence. Deacon Don McArdle in his book *Grateful and Giving* explains, “Christ calls each one of us to Himself as His disciples. May we embrace that call with courage and use all that we have been given – our time, our talents, our treasure, our very lives as a whole – selflessly, in the service of Christ whom we follow.” May we strive to become His present-day disciples as we begin this Lenten journey together.

Blessings,

Lynn Connelly