

From the **PASTOR'S** **DESK**



Transfiguration of the Lord

God is eager to share his glory with us. We get a glimpse of this today when three of the disciples are invited to come and pray alone and apart with Jesus and find themselves witnesses in a direct encounter with divinity. Jesus led his friends to a mountaintop. He often went to a lonely place to pray, to seek solitude and sanctuary away from the crowds. But on this occasion, he brought three friends and permitted them to experience a moment of disclosure of his divinity. In this mysterious event, Peter, James and John see the face and clothes of Jesus transformed by dazzling light. Jesus, Moses, and Elijah are surrounded by a cloud, and a voice from heaven declares, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!”

These words of God the Father synthesize the life of Jesus. In all things, Jesus listened to and obeyed the Father.

The Transfiguration brought the apostles “face to face” with God at a turning point in the ministry of Jesus. Up to a short time before this disclosure of his divine glory, Jesus had been enjoying an upward trajectory of popularity. The disciples were satisfied. Through preaching and miracle working, Jesus had become a celebrity. Suddenly, there was a change in acceptance. The Pharisees and Scribes were openly hostile. At that same time, Jesus began to insist that he had to go to Jerusalem to suffer. Jesus is like us in all things except sin. He knew fear, anger, abandonment, betrayal. He had been insulted and misunderstood. During those moments when Jesus could sense his impending suffering and death, he needed to come to the Father and listen without reservation.

The Transfiguration is an affirmation by the Father of Peter’s acknowledgement of Jesus as Messiah and Son of God. The Transfiguration is also an endorsement of Jesus’ voluntary commitment to go to Jerusalem to pick up the cross as his path to “enter into his glory.”

Transfiguration is a glimpse of what’s ahead of us when we hold on and faithfully carry our daily trials. Those who seek God in prayer are not disappointed. God will give them courage, strength, and hope to face their crosses. Coming in contact with the divine brings transfiguration. If we take the time to ascend with Jesus in prayer, he will be with us when we descend back into our lives.

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