

A Personal Encounter with the Power of the Gospel

Second Week of Lent: What Does God Think of You?

In this second week of Lent Fr. Toups reminds us that if you need to start over with your Lenten commitment already, God does not think of you as a failure. If you are doing well, God wants you to go deeper. If you're struggling due to distractions and discouragements, take heart because God wants to remind you that you are his son or daughter—and he is not giving up on you. You didn't do anything wrong. Trust God. He is here with you.

If things are going well, maybe God is revealing truths to you that you had only hoped to find. This is awesome. Keep going. There is always more that God wants to show you. God does not expect us to be overly critical of ourselves, but to look at ourselves as He does as a daughter, or son.

God is never surprised about the things you find when you explore the depths of your heart. In fact, he has been waiting for you to talk to him about these hidden things. Open your heart to Him. This is where we might find the transformation in our lives.

The good news is that in this week's Gospel, the telling of the Transfiguration, we see Jesus confirming who he is as the Son of God. Jesus reveals to us that he is who he says he is, the Son of God, the Savior of the World. He is mercy, love and compassion in the flesh. God looks at you, at all of us, with the eyes of love. Jesus is who he says he is. Be not afraid to take his hand. Some thoughts to ponder:

- Do you feel in your heart that Jesus is who he says he is?
- What is Jesus trying to do in your life?
- Where is Jesus proving to you that he is who he says he is?

Fr. Mark talks about Peter, James and John going up the mountain with Jesus.

Matthew 17:6; “When the Disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid.”

For the Apostles, the Transfiguration was so powerful that they fell on their faces with awe.

- When was the last time you were in awe of God?
- When was the last time you were in awe of anything?

Matthew 17:7; “But Jesus came and touched them saying, “Rise, and do not be afraid.”

- The antidote for fear is trust. In life, our fear is often focused on circumstances. Trust is focused on the Person who is with you in the midst of the circumstance. You can Trust that God is with you through any circumstance.
- When Jesus says, “Do not be afraid,” he means “Trust me.”

We need to remember not to be afraid. Jesus reveals to us that he is the Son of God and the Savior of the world! Jesus is mercy, love and compassion in the flesh. We are seen through the eyes of Jesus, not our eyes, or through the eyes of the world. Jesus knows all the deepest longings of our hearts.

Scripture Reflections

Romans 8: 14-17

Psalm 121