

A Short Teaching on Splendor of the Father  
by Deacon Gerry Palermo

Greetings on the Second Sunday of Lent.

Readings: GN 12:1-4A; PS PS 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; 2 TM 1:8B-10; MT 17:1-9

The Transfiguration is attested to in the three synoptic Gospels and through the readings today the Church makes the spiritual connection between Abram, Moses, and Elijah to Jesus:

In the person of Abram - the blessings of God on a journey from the land of Haran to Canaan.

In the person of Moses - the Law on a journey from the land of Egypt to (near) Canaan.

In the person of Elijah - the hand and voice of God from Gilead to Tyre to Bethel in Canaan.

Each of them listened to God and accepted, in faith, the difficult journey and unimaginable promise. Each of them took a journey of faith filled with hardship which brought them and others to the temporal Promised Land. In the Transfiguration, for the disciples and for us, is a listening and accepting an invitation to enter into the new and final journey.

The Transfiguration event is a Trinitarian theophany consisting of the Father's voice, the Son of Man shining like the sun, and the Spirit in the bright cloud which overshadows. This sets the stage for the dialog: Moses and Elijah discussing with Jesus his Final Exodus – His Departure.

Now is revealed the salvation plan – which brings the glory of God to every human person – the cross and resurrection. What the disciples could understand immediately they feebly related. But the Father, wanting them to go further and beyond the reenactment of the Feast of Booths, encourages them to listen deeper and to enter into this Exodus with Jesus (My beloved Son... listen to him). Jesus is to enter into his passion and so express the splendor of the Father.

Baptism is the New Exodus. It is joining our life to the life of Jesus who is the splendor of the Father. Jesus' shining like the sun is what happens when you are baptized. Moses and Elijah coming down from heaven to speak with Jesus is the promise of eternal friendship with God.

In this life we imperfectly become like Jesus and in the life to come we are like him according to our being. Listen to him, the Beloved Son, and accept, in faith, the unimaginable. It may seem unimaginable that the Way of the Cross is the way of salvation by the merits of Jesus. We are transfigured too when we enter The Way.

Peace be with you.

Deacon Gerry