

Second Sunday of Lent

February 28, 2021

This Sunday's Gospel, the Second Sunday of Lent, always the Church uses the story of the Transfiguration on the Mountain. Jesus elects three of the disciples and leads them up Mt Tabor. Little do Peter, James and John know what lies ahead of them. Scholars suggest that this story is in three parts: The appearance of Elijah and Moses; the cloud and the announcement; and coming down the mountain.

With the first idea, Moses and Elijah bring into the mystery the Old Testament major figures, is this Jesus the Promised Messiah. Remember these disciples do not know what we know, they have not read the Gospel. To them this is mysterious and amazing. No wonder Peter wanted to prepare three tents for these guests.

The second suggestion is the appearance of the shadowy Cloud; the **now** moment, the **present** moment. The demand is to listen, to be open to **change**. The shadowy cloud captures the present moment for Peter, James, and John. They find themselves living in confusion, in a cloudy darkness. They cannot pretend to understand, nor to imagine what is happening. But, we know, these are the words enunciated at his Baptism. Jesus is **claimed** by the Father. Maybe like you "claimed" your children at their Baptism.

And the third segment of this Gospel: Coming Down from the mountain. Again, with Mark, he prompts them to "tell know one" ... To live in the confusion. What does "rising from the Dead" mean?

And how does this Gospel enlighten us this Lent? Let us approach this as if we were in a retreat, after all that is what Lent is, a 40-day retreat.

So, just ponder this:

What is Mark's point of including the OT figures of Moses and Elijah?

What shadowy cloud are you presently living with?

How does it feel to be "coming down the mountain"? ... to be walking out of here?