

Homily. 2nd Sunday of Lent. Year. B. 27/28 February 2021.

The transfiguration story tends to impress us with its special light and glory. It was an event, a few moments when we can say that the future broke into and became manifest to us in the present. Of course, for God there is no past or future since everything is always present; all that was and all that will be, is now. When we pray the Glory Be prayer saying the words 'As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be' we're actually affirming this truth about God's timelessness, God's eternal now.

Still, just like Peter, James and John, we're stuck in time, stuck with a past and a present, and hopefully with a future, too. This is why I always feel affinity with Peter on the mountain that day, so desperately trying to overcome his anxiety and make sense of what he was witnessing. He thought that he could fill the void of his limited knowledge and experience with words and plans of his own by putting up tents for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. As St. Mark's gospel tells us, he really didn't know what he was saying because he was so scared. Meeting God can be a bit scary.

All that Peter really had to do is what the voice from the cloud said only seconds after Peter had spoken. Do you remember those words from God? They were about Jesus being God's beloved Son and that our job was to 'Listen to Him'. This is the message we have to hear today, right now as God becomes very real to us in the present here our gathering. We have to get over ourselves, our demands and wants, our plans and ideas, putting all of this along with our egos aside for a while so that we can just look at Jesus, pay attention to Him and listen to Him. If we try to

do this then meeting God isn't scary at all. It becomes for us a moment of encounter with mercy, kindness and love.

In the 1st reading God seemed to ask hard, even unimaginable things of Abraham, like sacrificing his only son on whom his present joy and all future hope depended. Nevertheless, Abraham did listen to God and was about to do as he was asked when God's true intentions were revealed. God did not want Isaac to be killed at all. It had been test of Abraham's faith and of his willingness to listen and trust God. Abraham had passed the test, and from then onwards right down to this day, all who believe in God and listen to God will share the blessings granted to him.

Now, we have to learn to become like St. Peter eventually became and to think like St. Paul, understanding that God is good and can be trusted to always do right by us, for God is on our side and will refuse us nothing that God can give. Listening to Jesus, God's own beloved Son, is our way into this loving, peaceful way of living. It's our doorway into inheriting all of the blessings that God offers to us who are God's people of faith today.