

We've Heard This One Before

The Transfiguration of the Lord – August 6, 2017 – Matthew 17: 1-9

Yes, we have heard this gospel before. In fact, we heard it March 12, 2017 on the Second Sunday of Lent. So why do we have the repeat? This weekend is known as the Transfiguration of the Lord. Although the gospel passage is the same, the message is a bit different during the Ordinary Time of year.

Scripture scholars will say that in Lent the Church is looking at this gospel to proclaim that Jesus is the fullness of God, the one Messiah who has come to redeem the world. This week the same gospel is used to explore and explain the demands of discipleship.

In both of these presentations of this gospel the overall message is that Jesus fulfills the Law encountering the great prophets of Moses and Elijah. Today, the emphasis moves to the command of God to the disciples **“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”**

The gospels for these last few weeks of Ordinary Time have been Jesus' teachings on discipleship. Today, God speaks to Peter, James and John (and us) of the importance of listening and following Jesus with our lives. It is in the teachings of Jesus that the disciples learn how to follow the Lord's life of selfless love and sacrifice.

“When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid.” Jesus reminds them (and us) that there is no need to fear as he will be with them at all times.

Discipleship in Christ is demanding if we attempt to do it on our own. Discipleship done in the name of the Lord with the focus on Jesus still will be demanding but our faith in Christ sustains us through the darkness that we will encounter. God is always the **“bright cloud”** that Matthew notes this week. Darkness is never truly darkness if we have God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit at the core of our life and ministry. I believe this is a message we've heard before and will hear again.

Blessings!



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