

An “Aha” Kind of Moment

Second Sunday of Lent – The Transfiguration of the Lord -Luke 9: 28b-36

For Peter, John and James, today is one of those “aha kind of moments” when one has a sudden realization of the truth. For these three followers of Jesus, this is the day of reckoning, when they gain some valuable insight into Jesus’ true identity.

This is a God moment, a mountain top experience of what is to come. As the suffering servant of God, Jesus has gone about Galilee preaching God’s salvation to the least and the lowly. He has predicted his coming passion and death. Now, Peter, John and James are given a privileged preview of the glory that will come with Jesus’ resurrection.

“Jesus took Peter, John and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying, his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.” In the midst of this great experience, when Moses and Elijah are with Jesus, Peter and the other two fall asleep, as if a preview of their failure in the Garden of Gethsemane.

This time they awaken to behold the glory of the experience. This time they witness the truth of Jesus’ Divinity. This experience is so compelling that Peter wants it to last forever. **“Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”** Peter wishes to encapsulate this powerful, glorious moment with earthly structures, structures that cannot contain all that Jesus must do to fulfill this glory.

The truth is more than these three can comprehend. The same voice that was heard at Jesus’ baptism now speaks. **“This is my chosen Son; listen to him.”** The depth of this moment fills the three disciples with fear, so much so that they cannot speak of this experience to anyone else at this time. It will take their participation and witness of Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection for them to begin to understand what they have experienced today. One day they will be able to proclaim that Jesus is both the suffering servant and the Lord of glory, the long-awaited Messiah promised by God to the world.

Every year, on the second Sunday of Lent, the Church celebrates the Transfiguration of the Lord. This gospel allows us our own “aha moment” in which we might ponder and come to believe that Jesus is God’s chosen Son. It is a preview of our own possible glory with God as we strive to pursue eternal life through our relationship and discipleship with Jesus Christ.

Happy Lent!


Sue Schettler