

## Transfiguration (Matt 17:1-9)

Today's Gospel tells us of a powerful and mysterious event in the life of Jesus, an event he shared with Peter, James, and John. Peter tells us of his experience of the Transfiguration of Jesus while with him on the holy mountain. He was transfigured before them, his clothes becoming dazzlingly white, and Moses and Elijah conversing with Jesus. The affirmation of his Father spoke to Jesus, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Peter and the others never forgot this experience; "We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven while we were with him. You will do well to be attentive to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."

Peter tells us to be attentive, to listen, just as the three disciples did. As we listen, we allow the lamp of God's love to shine in our dark places as we await the dawning of the day and the rise of the morning star in our hearts. Jesus wants us to listen, for that's life giving for us. Listening is sometimes hard for most of us. It requires us to be still. We would perhaps rather be active. Listening requires us to be open and humble that another might have something to say that we need to hear. We would rather think we know everything and have nothing more to learn. Listening requires us to respect the speaker and be open to change. But if we listen to Jesus and to his Father, we have a real chance to grow, and perhaps even experience our own transfiguration.

We can look on the transfigured face of Jesus and be reminded that he can transfigure us, when we may be lonely, discouraged, needy, sad, unloved. Jesus touches us just where we need to be touched. He knows us better than we know ourselves. We need to listen. We are all candidates for transfiguration and this is no impossible dream. We possess the prophetic message that is altogether reliable. We will do well to be attentive, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in our hearts.

Al Grosskopf, S.J.