

2nd Sunday of Lent Year A

Usually when Ginni and I go out I drive and she's the passenger

Usually we know where we're going – but sometimes we get lost & Ginni has to ask for directions
Look at today's reading and you'll see God giving 3 sets of directions

1. First set of directions - Abram

"Leave your land & go to a land I will show you"

? Which direction is he to go? God doesn't say go to Cana, or Palestine, or ...

He says "Go to a land I will show you"

Abram has to trust God – pack up everything and believe

AND HE DOES

"Abram went as God directed him" – step by step

NB – this is not about Abram obeying

This may not even be about going NSEW

This is about Abram doing what God directs him to do in all things

ARE YOU WILLING TO DO THAT

2. Second set of directions – St. Paul to Timothy

"Bear your share of hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God"

If you follow God If you obey God

The world and satan will rise up against you

The way of the world is NOT the way of the Lord and

There will be conflict (young Tim bishop of Ephesus)

What does God tell him to do (and us too)

"Bear your share of hardship with strength that comes from
God"

Not all hardship (your share)

Not if hardship comes (it will)

But so will strength from God

Know this

In the storm, when all seems bleak – when clouds cover you – GOD IS THERE

3. This leads us to the third set of directions – Gospel of Matt

Where does the voice come from? Out of the cloud, while covered with shadow

"This is my beloved Son, listen to Him"

Peter, James & John see Jesus in glory – they see Elijah (prophet) & Moses (law)

Why Elijah and Moses – Jesus fulfills all the prophets & law

It is right there in front of them, in glory & Peter doesn't want it to end

"let's build 3 tents" (and we can stay here)

BOOM – bright cloud & it casts a shadow over them

NB – if God's showing you something in the light & you don't get it
don't be surprised if He covers you in darkness until you do

What did God say? "Listen to Him" – like Abram – like Timothy –

Like Peter James and John BUT I AM NOT ABRAM, Timothy or Peter, James & John

I am Frank & I sin – I don't always "Listen to Him" What should I do?

4. PSALM – "Let Your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in You"

Praise God – we have God's mercy

Praise God – that the clouds overshadow us – *because we need it sometimes to hear HIM clearer*

Praise God – that we have the strength of God promised to Timothy

Praise God – that God still gives us the direction we need to get from where we are to where He
wants to bring us

For with God's mercy ALL is possible.

A good lesson for LENT, like Abe, Tim, PJJ – Trust in God's mercy and place Your trust in Him