

Lent 2 Sunday B - Transfiguration

In scripture, tucked away between JC's baptism & transfiguration is the temptation in the desert?

Both at Baptism and Transfiguration we hear Father speak – ‘This is my beloved Son’

Between these two experiences, Jesus is tempted and tested in the desert

These two moments - desert and mountain top - are our experiences of God too:

Sometimes God comes in the midst of chaos, in the tragic, in ways which shake us, and crush our hearts.

God can come in ways which leave us angry, hostile, on the edge of despair and disbelief.

Sometimes God comes in the beautiful. He comes in ways which impress us, that sweep us off our feet, which fill us with hope and peace. God can leave us gasping in awe.

Experiences of heaven and hell – **God will use whatever it takes to bring us close:**

It reminds me of an old Japanese fable -

One day, a Samurai warrior went to a Zen master for instruction. "Please," the huge man asked in a thundering voice that was used to instant obedience, "teach me about heaven and hell."

The priest broke into mocking laughter. "Teach you about heaven and hell? I wouldn't waste a moment trying to teach an overweight ignoramus like you! How dare you ask me for such a lofty insight?"

Well, upon hearing these words, the Samurai grew furious. No one could insult him like this and get away with it. Enraged, his face flushed and he drew his sword to chop off the teacher's head. Just as he was about to strike, the master raised his hand and calmly said "That, sir, is hell."

Upon hearing this, the samurai suddenly realized the lesson the master had just taught him – He dropped his sword and fell to his knees in front of the Master, bowing in humility and gratitude. When he looked up, the old man was smiling. "And that, sir," the teacher noted, "is Heaven."

If battling temptation will bring you closer to God – **expect temptation this Lent**

If experiencing the glory of God will bring you closer – **expect the mountaintop w/Peter, James, John**

- Abraham is put to the test in the 1st reading – *and it must have been like hell* – sacrifice your son, your only one who you love.
- Peter James and John *get a taste of heaven* – Jesus, in His glory before them
- As you walk through Lent – you may experience temptation – or you may experience glory – Either way, recognize it is God calling you to come closer

Our “Transfiguration Moment” can help us understand better the purpose of trials, suffering, testing and making sacrifices.

When we experience anger in our hearts, we can discover forgiveness;

When we experience confusion, we can discover enlightenment;

When we experience struggle, we can discover the strength to face them.

When we experience our doubts we can discover understanding.

Abraham was called into covenant and then he was tested

Jesus brings the New Covenant and He was tested

Now it's our turn – this Lent has the ability to bring us all closer to the Father, thru the Son.

May our 40 days of Lent be as fruitful as Jesus' 40 days in the desert -

So that we may have our own “Transfiguration Moment” and see the glory of God.