

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith in Laity Corner



Lent 2
Monday, February 26, 2018

Year 2/Cycle B

Mark 9:1-10

Change We Must

This the 2nd week of Lent, Catholics reflect on the meaning of one dramatic episode of Jesus' public ministry.

"Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves." (Mk. 9:2)

Probably one of the most important features of change is that it cannot be done alone. There is always someone's action or presence that lead one to begin to effect a change. Think of what made you change your diet- it could be advice from a friend, your doctor, your wife/husband... beginning to look at a change is usually triggered by a person who has crossed your path. Jesus knew that this experience was important for His close followers to have. They did not fully know what was to happen as they followed Jesus up that mountain, but by the end, they had a transforming encounter.

"And He was transfigured before them..." (Mk.9:2)

What does it mean to be transfigured?

"His clothes became dazzling white,

such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.” (Mk. 9:3)

We saw Jesus made a radical change in His outward appearance, He appeared to have had company within that strange encounter; not even He did this alone. Jesus suddenly appeared with

“Elijah appeared to them along with Moses..” (Mk. 9:4)

There appeared two great Old Testament biblical figures? I always wondered, how did the 3 Apostles know who they were? It was obvious that Moses and Elijah lived thousands of years before them, yet how did they know their identity? Did Jesus reveal this to the Apostles? What sign did these two men display? Did Moses have the 2 tablets of stone? What did Elijah have? How did these two great men come together to be a part of the radical change observed by Peter, James, and John?

The fact that this scene is the 4th Luminous mystery of the rosary and this reading is always done during Lent, there must be a reason. Transfigure-the normal human appearance crossed over with features which were not of this world. What is the picture tell us in this 2nd week of Lent? There are changes we should be solidifying in our lives- radical changes. We should be making that cross over from what is usual and normal to aspire through our prayers, fasting, and alms-giving to bring us closer to where we need to be in communication with the Divine Master. God did not establish this experience which He gave His first group of followers- that it be missed on us,

Hereby this 2nd week, we should know what our Lent would be like..... What commitment have we made whether it is to abstain senseless talking, lying to yourself and others, spreading false texts, cheating, putting self before everything else? We should be working our way towards reforming, transforming our old 'self' which avoided seeking God, to a person who can find God and enjoy spending time in His company.

*“Let us make three tents: one for you,
one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” (Mk. 9:*

What are your transformational realities for Lent today in 2018? The world thrives on falsehoods, pretense, and sensationalism; looks down on humility, gratitude, and patience. In our times we uplift and honor those who are boastful, physically fit, and rushing the \$\$; avoiding those who are poor, physically impaired, and lonely. How are you going to let Lent transform how you treat others by your thought, words, and deeds? There is no small number of causes to challenge your ability to effect transforming grace to our prison factory, homeless, victims of physical abuse and sexual exploitation, concern for our environment, protection of our natural resources, racial bias and divide, gun violence, credit exploitation, substance abusers, children without faith and hope.

There are more causes than there are committed people who are willing to let transformational Grace flow so that a change could come. Yes, after the wonder of the mountain experience, we have to return to the realities of our world.

“As they were coming down from the mountain.” (Mk. 9:9)

It becomes what your transformational experience with the power of God's Grace will allow you to achieve. If you have become transformed, don't be afraid of the change as the change empowers you to act and to impact our world..... **Change We Must...**

How will we meaningfully observe Lent this year? Put down your distracting devices. Open our Bible, listen to God word as it ministers to our heart, visit the Blessed Sacrament, sit silence; pray an extra rosary, give more to St. Vincent de Paul, listen more speak less.

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's reading written by
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