

CHRIST OUR HOPE CATHOLIC CHURCH
FAITH IN LAITY CORNER



Year 3/Cycle C- 2nd Week of LENT

Readings: Gen. 15:5-12,17-18; Lk.0:28-36

Monday, March 18, 2019

Encountering God

There are a few events in life, which will stand out in our memories for as long as we live. We never forget a traumatic incident- an accident witnessed, a life-threatening illness, fear for one's life, a God-encounter, the birth or death of a loved one. A few people have had a life changing 'near death experience' and this will impact decisions made both now and in the future. The 2nd Sunday of Lent has introduced us to the Old Testament story which begins with Abram, later changed to Abraham, as having a life-altering encounter with God. As a mere human coming face to face with a Being that is Almighty, All-Powerful, and Omnipotent; this would not be forgotten.

"Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.

Just so, he added, will your descendants be." (Gen. 15:5)

Imagine what it would be like to have an encounter with God? Abraham had such an experience he came face to face with the Creator, who makes a solemn promise, as He pointed to the heavens. God showed him the stars in the sky (*not able to be counted*) and told him that He, the I Am, was making a promise, a God Covenant with mankind.

*"I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans
to give you this land as a possession." (Gen 15:7)*

The God who created all land was going to provide a parcel of earth space for him, God reminded Abraham that His hand was with him and his people, taking them from the land of Ur. God established an agreement which will require action by man and God to enforce the Covenant Promise. As human beings, God requires our action for His move to become effective.

Abraham was asked to bring the following animals before the Lord. He was given clear instructions.

*"A three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat,
a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." (Gen 15:9)*

God again renewed His Promise to Moses; just before the Jewish Exodus, the Passover, with all its clear requirements, which had to be followed to the letter. Our God encounter has to move us beyond anything else we have ever experienced. We are to ask ourselves, what does God require of me to do?

*"Peter, John, and James and went
up the mountain to pray." (Lk. 9:28)*

Jesus and His Apostles were asked to move away and pray. It was in following these instructions, Peter, James and John were able to witness a personal God-encounter. In His presence, they saw a transformation of those in God's Shadow.

*"He was praying his face changed in appearance
and his clothing became dazzling white." (Lk. 9:29)*

The psalmist question, "*Who can see the face of God and live?*" Well Jesus' followers were able to hear God's voice, an unforgettable encounter.

*'Then from the cloud came a voice that said,
"This is my chosen Son; listen to him."' (Lk.9:35)*

One can say that meeting God, will leave you speechless, and afraid.

“They became frightened when they entered the cloud.” (Lk.9:34)

Yes, an encounter with the Almighty will bring some level of fear, it is more thinking about the task He has set aside for us, that we have some reservations. There is the assurance that if we set out to meet God, He will assign us the task with the allotted strength to see it through. Let us not make a mistake, God is always waiting to meet us, we must have the desire to seek Him. He waits for us. A God-encounter occurs when we put ourselves before Him and seek His Face to shine upon us. Be not afraid of a God -encounter. Encountering God is a daily occurrence, finding Him in the face of a stranger, difficult situations and in prayer. Seek God, He is waiting to make your encounter real.

WE PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE MOZAMBIQUE WHO ARE FACING THE AFTERMATH OF A

DEVASTATING CYCLONE WITH THOUSANDS OF DEAD AND DYING.

AND A STRUGGLE TO FIND DRY LAND OR FOOD SUPPLY. LET US REMEMBER THOSE IN FLOODED WESTERN STATES WHO ARE FACING DIFFICULT TIMES.

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Scriptures: www.usccb.org

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