

Our Lady of Lourdes

Second Sunday of Lent

February 28, 2010

Readings:

Genesis 15:2-12, 17-18

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 9:28-36

Fr. Bob

Lent is a time for us to consider our relationship with God. And for us as Christians, that means re-examining our relationship with Christ. But like all relationships, that means that it has to be for us, something that is personal. Something tangible. I've talked already of accompanying Christ on his way to Jerusalem as he prepares for his passion, as well as his ultimate victory. And I've talked about including our lives and where they fit into his story.

In today's Gospel, Jesus shares his life, his mission, and his relationship with three of his own disciples. Peter, James and John, all had their own experiences of Christ. They shared much in common as they saw the same things, heard the same words that Jesus spoke, and watched as he performed wonders. They also, at times, found themselves being scolded by Christ. Sometimes it was to correct a misunderstanding, and sometimes it was to curb the things they wanted and the things they desired. Some would say that Jesus took Peter, James and John with him to the mountain because they were his favorites. Then again, perhaps Jesus was showing himself to be a good teacher. Perhaps he took them because he knew what they needed. He took them to the mountaintop on his way to Jerusalem.

Last week, in the Gospel, Jesus was taken to a high place and shown all the kingdoms of the world as a temptation. This week, in today's Gospel, he goes to the mountaintop, to be alone with the three. He goes, not to look at the world and the kingdoms but to make sure that he is doing what God wants. And we're given the story of the transfiguration. In case he was harboring any doubts, in case the three disciples were unsure, something happened to all of them that day with the appearance of Moses and Elijah, along with the voice from heaven proclaiming Jesus, as the beloved son who has the pleasure of God. Peter reacted as the extrovert he was. He wanted, immediately, to do something, to show hospitality and welcome to the two greatest figures in Jewish history.

We're not told that James and John said anything. Perhaps the scene just drove them to silence. Perhaps the scene made them introspective as they tried to take in and absorb its meaning. The same experience, but different reactions to the presence of the sacred. The same experience, but different reactions to the presence of holiness. But it was just a temporary stop, on the pilgrimage of Jesus to Jerusalem. An important stop, as we continue to follow the story of Christ, and as we continue to try and connect our lives to his, we might reflect on the possibilities that they might have experienced...

Walking alongside Christ, means that at times, we have to stop, in the midst of our own life's journey, to reflect on where we've been, and what we've experienced. To look around, and to remember those moments, when, like those disciples on the mountain, that we've experienced the Lord. Stopping, as Jesus did when he went to the mountaintop, was a time for that. As they continued they carried with them their memories. Knowing where we have come from, remembering who we are in our relationship to God, gives us the direction, the guidance and the support that we need in our own lives of faith.