

Lent 2015

A reflection on Mark 9:2-10

Peter, James and John must have been terribly confused. Only six days earlier Jesus had spoken to them of His upcoming suffering, persecution, and death. Their belief and understanding that He should be glorious and victorious as their Messiah must have been shattered. And Jesus, in taking them up the mountain, and being transfigured before them, had to be overwhelming to them. I wonder if they realized they were seeing Him in His Glory, as the Son of God? The presence of Moses and Elijah conversing with Christ, and hearing the voice of God claiming Him as His Son, though probably frightening, was surely a great reassurance to them. This Gospel affirms that our journey to glory is through the Cross.

This Gospel calls us to reflect on the mountains in our lives up which Christ leads us; dealing with our confusion in recognizing His presence and, sometimes, who He is; and our call as His disciples to "Listen to Him". We sometimes feel we have been stranded on an insurmountable "mountain" of pain, confusion, and doubt and never realize we have been led up that mountain to experience our own transformation in faith. Christ is present in His glory...listen to Him!

Our commitment to God's providence, His divine care and direction, is ever present in our journey through the struggles and joys of life's events and situations; it sharpens our senses and makes visible His presence. Let us believe without confusion or fear that "...it is good for us to be here" embraced by the love we have experienced in the Cross.

As believers, and through our Baptism, we too are "transfigured" by the power of the Holy Spirit into children of God, images of Christ, who in our abandonment to the will of God, choose the cross of Christ as our path to glory. This Gospel reveals the necessity of Christ's suffering as a fulfillment of prophecies, and calls us to find, in the providence of our commitment to follow Him, our own path to glory. As so fittingly stated in our Providence mission statement, "... we nurture in ourselves and in others a trust and confidence in God's faithful presence. We further commit ourselves to making God's providence more visible in our world."

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Women of Providence
in Collaboration*