

'DO WE IDENTIFY WITH PETER IN THE TRANSFORMATION' – HOMILY – 12 MARCH 2017

We celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration later in the year.
However, on the Second Sunday of Lent each year,
We listen to the Gospel account of the Transfiguration as part our Lenten journey.
This year we hear Matthew's account, 17:1-9.

LET US CONSIDER OURSELVES AS WE REFLECT ON PETER

SCENE 1: IN 16:18 JESUS SAYS TO SIMON PETER:

***"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church,
And the gates of Hades will not prevail against it".***

Peter's role is named.
Let us pause and consider the way we live out our faith.
What about the times we feel on a high. We are achieving.
We seem to know where we are going.
We can name it, even if we don't know the details.

SCENE 2: JESUS CALLS PETER A STUMBLING BLOCK "SKANDALON" TO HIM 16:23

***"Get behind me, Satan!
You are a stumbling block to me;
For you are setting your mind
Not on divine things but on human things."***

Peter had messed up with his response to Jesus.
He is a scandal.
A scandal by the way he has thought.
Peter is still the rock. That hasn't been taken away.
Yet he does not understand what Jesus is saying.
He still is with Jesus and the disciples.

Let us pause and consider ourselves when we mess up.
Do we want to run away? Hide?
How do we keep going?
Peter **stays** in the presence of Jesus.
He **stays** in the presence of the community.

SCENE 3: SIX DAYS LATER

Six days after Peter messed up.
Six days to think about it. Six days of soul-searching.
Yet still stays with Jesus.
Jesus chooses Peter and James and John to go up the mountain with him.
They become **witnesses** to the identity of Jesus.

Let us pause and consider how God reaches out to us when we mess up.
Hearing the voice from heaven repeat the words from when Jesus was baptised,
The voice adds "**LISTEN TO HIM**".

*“When the disciples heard this,
They fell to the ground
And were overcome by fear.
But Jesus came and touched them, saying
‘Get up and do not be afraid.’”* MT 17:6-7

Overcome by fear can be translated “terrified greatly”
Their eyes are cast down.

Jesus reaches out to them.

He comes nearer to them, touches them in reassurance, and speaks to them.

Let us pause and consider how Jesus -

- **COMES** to us in our fears, our anxiety, our troubles;
- **REACHES OUT** to touch our lives;
- **ALLAYS** our fears;
- **INVITES** us to raise our eyes once more to him.

How God gives us another chance.

Let us not forget what Peter, James and John saw of Jesus.

*“And he was transfigured before them,
And his face shone like the sun,
And his clothes became dazzling white.”*

Let us recall the moments when we feel a light within us

As Jesus touches us in holiness.

The moments of utter joy, graced by God.

The love of God that we feel.

Knowing deep within, that in God’s gaze upon us – **WE ARE BELOVED.**

And knowing that whether in the peak “mountain top” moments of life,

Or in the moments of daily life,

Jesus is with us.

Let us pray.

Fr Gerry

[Fr. Gerry Hefferan – Do We Identify With Peter in the Transformation – 12 March 2017]

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/031217.cfm>]

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