

Prayerful preparation for Mass Second Sunday of Lent : Year A

Set aside a prayer time and begin by relaxing and coming to stillness.

Read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, paying attention to any words that stand out for you. Stay with those words for a few minutes and wait to see if God is present to you.

Matthew 17:1-9. His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this the disciples fell on their faces overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

A brief guide to *Lectio Divina*

For those who might like more structure; but remember, it is not about keeping to the structure, the structure is there only to help you meet Jesus and listen to God.

1. Sit down in a quiet and solitary place.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit for help in listening to the Lord.
3. Re-read the gospel until it reveals one insight for that day.
4. Ask for the strength of the Holy Spirit to put the insight into practice.
5. Write down the insight received.
6. Put into practice that insight during the day.
7. Check at the end of the day that you have made Jesus present in your life that day, and give thanks for it.

Reflection on Matthew 17:1-9

The Transfiguration was a stunning event. Jesus was praying when the reality of His Father's love for Him radiated through Him and His whole being became aglow.

Moses and Elijah appeared and seemed to be talking to Jesus.

Peter wanted action but God then spoke confirming Jesus' status as Son of God, specially chosen by God. God instructed the disciples to listen to Jesus.

It was hard for the disciples to listen, is it for us too? The idea of Jesus as suffering and being put to death challenged their ideas of the nature of Jesus' Mission. It was hard to see the culmination of Jesus' death ending on the Cross. No earthly rewards, no political status, no claiming superiority but Mission ending in ignoble death, public shame and pain and suffering.

Like Moses called to a life of leading a thankless people to freedom we see our enterprises failing. Like Elijah we struggle against the power of evil.

- When do I listen to God?
- In my life do I relish the highs, the glory of my faith?
- Do I live through my crosses believing that Christ on the cross alone can give meaning to our suffering?

Compiled from Website, Loyola Press, book "As Bread that is broken," P. G. van Breeman S.J. C.T.S. pamphlet, *Lectio Divina*.