



Daily Reflections

August 6, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 17: 1-9

Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother, John,
and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

And he was transfigured before them;

his face shone like the sun

and his clothes became white as light.

And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them,
conversing with him.

Then Peter said to Jesus in reply,

"Lord, it is good that we are here.

If you wish, I will make three tents here,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, behold,

a bright cloud cast a shadow over them,

then from the cloud came a voice that said,

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him."

When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate
and were very much afraid.

But Jesus came and touched them, saying,

"Rise, and do not be afraid."

And when the disciples raised their eyes,
they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

As they were coming down from the mountain,

Jesus charged them,
"Do not tell the vision to anyone
until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Our Scripture Reflection

In taking His disciples to the mountain top, Jesus gave them a privileged glimpse of "the other side" of Calvary. They saw His glory and what an incredible sight that must have been. Why did He do this at that time? Even though they would forget the mountain top experience in the midst of Jesus' passion, they would in time remember and they would change. They would be transformed from a group of cowardly and faithless men to a group of holy and courageous Apostles who went on to give everything for their Lord. The Transfiguration reveals the wonderful Truth that with God's Grace we all can change.

Food for your Journey

In the earliest Olympic games, the competitors vowed three things: 1) I will use no unfair means to secure victory; 2) I have trained for ten months; and 3) I promise to do my best and not to quit. That kind of commitment captures our imaginations and compels us to wonder what it must be like to ascend to such a high level of discipline and persistence in pursuing a goal.

Much has been said through the years about Christians running the race with endurance, finishing well the course set before us. The Apostle Paul makes effective use of athletic analogies in his letters exhorting fellow believers to press on to gain the prize of Jesus Christ. As we consider the three vows of the ancient Olympians, each has its biblical equivalent challenging us as disciples of the Lord Jesus to pursue the victory with everything we have.

-David Horner, "The Christian life as an Olympic sport," Shepherd's Staff, August 1996, www.pray.org/pbc/inside/shepherd/1996/shep9608.htm.

We may not witness Jesus transfigured on the mountaintop or receive new tablets of God's holy law, yet we can enthusiastically embrace the five intertwined rings that stand as an emblem of our faith and practice.

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, With the help of Your Grace, may I become the disciple You created and redeemed me to be. Amen.