



Daily Reflections

February 23, 2019

Scripture

Mark 9: 2-13

Jesus took Peter, James, and John
and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them,
and his clothes became dazzling white,
such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.
Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses,
and they were conversing with Jesus.
Then Peter said to Jesus in reply,
"Rabbi, it is good that we are here!
Let us make three tents:
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified.
Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them;
then from the cloud came a voice,
"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."
Suddenly, looking around, the disciples no longer saw anyone
but Jesus alone with them.
As they were coming down from the mountain,
he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone,
except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead.
So they kept the matter to themselves,
questioning what rising from the dead meant.

Then they asked him,
"Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"
He told them, "Elijah will indeed come first and restore all things,
yet how is it written regarding the Son of Man
that he must suffer greatly and be treated with contempt?
But I tell you that Elijah has come
and they did to him whatever they pleased,
as it is written of him."

Our Scripture Reflection

I can only imagine what was going through the minds of Peter, James and John as they witnessed the glory of Jesus on the mountain of Transfiguration. They received a privileged glimpse of what Jesus would look like after the resurrection. Of course they wanted to stay on the mountain top as the result, however, there was work to be done down below. Have you ever had an ecstatic religious experience, one of those experiences of the Lord that made you feel elated or lighter than air? And then soon thereafter you have to get back to the "real world". How do you keep such experiences alive in your day to day living? "Listen to Him." Stay tuned in to Jesus, through the scriptures, through your regular prayer, through the Holy Sacraments. He wants to stay in touch.

Food for your Journey

Dr. Jaroslav Pelikan of Yale University wrote a remarkable study of the significance of the person and work of Jesus Christ, *Jesus Through the Centuries*. Dr. Pelikan demonstrates how Jesus has been the dominant figure in the history of Western culture. Each age has made Jesus relevant to its own needs. Jesus has furnished each new age with answers to fundamental questions as every generation has had to address new social problems that tested the more fundamental questions of human existence. The world had to take note of Jesus as a rabbi, as the Cosmic Christ, the Ruler of the World, the King of Kings, the Prince of Peace, the Son of Man, the True Image of Man, the Great Liberator. In many other ways Jesus furnished the answers and the images that affected society in positive ways. Dr. Pelikan's thesis is that Jesus did not and does not belong to the churches and the theologians alone, but that he belongs to the world.

None of this is to say that we can make Jesus what we want Jesus to be. Quite the opposite. It is to say that the Christ is adequate for all our needs and that Jesus transcends culture in such a way that he is able to belong to each age and to address the issues of all time. To understand that, we can do no better than to look to the Holy Gospel for today, which celebrates the transfiguration of our Lord. In that momentous event we learn how and why Jesus belongs to the centuries.

--Harry N. Huxhold, *Which Way to Jesus*, CSS Publishing Company, 1996.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, With all of the busyness and noise in this life, it's easy to get distracted and to lose track of my relationship with You. As the result, I find myself feeling anxious and stressed. Lord, You offer me a peace that this world cannot give and You want to talk. Help me to take those pauses that cleanse my mind and heart and keep me connected to You. Amen