



Daily Reflections

March 17, 2019

Scripture

Luke 9: 28-36

Jesus took Peter, John, and James
and went up the mountain to pray.

While he was praying his face changed in appearance
and his clothing became dazzling white.

And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah,
who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus
that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.

Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep,
but becoming fully awake,

they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus,

"Master, it is good that we are here;

let us make three tents,

one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

But he did not know what he was saying.

While he was still speaking,

a cloud came and cast a shadow over them,

and they became frightened when they entered the cloud.

Then from the cloud came a voice that said,

"This is my chosen Son; listen to him."

After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.

They fell silent and did not at that time

tell anyone what they had seen.

Our Scripture Reflection

When we have a profound spiritual experience whether during a prayer session or the reading of a powerful scripture passage or upon hearing a profound insight during a sermon or reading a wonderful spiritual book, our inclination is to want to "stay up there". Upon seeing the glorious revelation of Jesus, Moses and Elijah on the mount of Transfiguration Peter wants to stay there forever. But they had to come down from the mountain top. As disciples we must take what we receive "on the mountain" and apply it to life down in the valleys of life. While it's not always easy or glorious to do so, we can find joy and peace.

Food for your Journey

Gerald G. May offers these criteria for evaluating our spiritual surrender:

It is conscious. One is wide-awake and aware of everything that is happening at the time of surrender. There is no dullness, no robotic mindlessness.

It is intentional. It is the result of the free and unencumbered use of one's will. It is a free choice. It may be called forth from one's heart, but it is never forced or compelled in any way.

It is a responsible act. One is willing to accept responsibility for the act if it turns out to be a mistake, if in fact, the surrender has been misplaced.

It involves responsibility for the consequences as well as for the act itself. If the surrender at any time or in any way results in destructiveness, one is willing to accept the responsibility for this. There can be no blaming of any other person, cause, force or entity.

It is not directed toward any fully known "object." Thus it cannot in any way be a means of furthering one's self-definition or self-importance. It must be directed toward the true Godhead, existing beyond all image and conception. Thereby, it becomes the giving of one's own mysterious soul to the Ultimate Mystery that created it, energized and sustained it, and calls it forth.

It represents a willingness to engage the fullness of life with the fullness of oneself. It cannot be an escape or an avoidance. It must be a yes rather than a no.

--Gerald G. May, "Criteria for

Judging the Legitimacy of Spiritual Surrender," International Christian Digest, April 1988, 31.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, Make me humble before You. May I always be open to and savor every experience I have of Your love. When I get distracted by the day to day living of life, may I stop, clear my head and heart and focus on You instead. Amen