

2nd Sunday Lent A 2026

Matthew 17:1-9

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 this vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead."

Story

The old monk had spent a great deal of his life with the Lord, either in contemplation, reflection, community prayers, or during his ordinary work detail. He always had a secret hope, and he never knew from where exactly it had come. He had a secret hope of actually seeing some visible sign of the reality of the Lord's presence in his life. Although he hesitated to use the word, he secretly longed for some sort of vision. One day he was in the chapel praying, when, suddenly, he looked up, and there he saw Jesus in full physical, visible form. Jesus smiled at him, and the monk was so dumbfounded that he just stared, and smiled back. He was in the midst of the most beautiful experience of his life when suddenly the door-bell rang. It was the

time of day when the homeless and the hungry came to the monastery for something to eat. Today was his turn to take care of them. Despite his excitement, he got up quietly, and went out to take care of the old man at the door. When the job was done, he rushed back into the chapel and, yes, Jesus was still there, waiting for him. He fell on his knees and thanked Jesus for waiting for him. Jesus smiled, and said, 'If you had not gone out to take care of that poor hungry man, I would not have remained on till you returned.' Jesus was just as present at the door as he was in the chapel.

Application:

Going aside with the Lord would be a very good description of prayer. I can do this in the midst of the madding crowd. I can enter my heart and be with him whenever I choose. If I were to layout the gospels before you now, I could highlight those times when Jesus brought his apostles to one side. Those were special moments. It was at one such time that he explained the parables; it was at another that he taught them to pray, and gave them a prayer to say; it was at such a time that they saw him glorified, and on a later occasion they would witness his agony. These were moments of profound formation for them, and they came to know him better, and to understand his message better, as a result of those private moments. If I believe that I am saved, then I have a serious obligation to look saved. A cynical philosopher said one time, 'You Christians make me sick. You speak of having a Redeemer, but not very many of you look redeemed.' Christianity is about attracting, not promoting. *Who and what I am is my message.* If I enter your house and tell you I have chickenpox, when, in fact, I have measles, which do you think you'll catch? What I have, or what I say I have?

Meditation:

"There are three phases of prayer: me and Him; Him and me; just Him."