

2nd Sunday of Lent A 2019  
Gen. 12.1-4//2 Tim. 1.8-10//Matt.17.1-9

--some days you never forget---where you were, what you were thinking, how that day changed you and impacted your life.....we call these peak moments....

→what are those days for you?....Perhaps it was sleepy November morning the day President Kennedy was shot...or a hot summer night in July when the first person ever stepped foot on the moon.....or the sparkling September day when the World Trade Center towers fell

→maybe it was the day your future spouse first smiled at you across the room and your heart skipped a beat...

→or the day you felt your chest grip with pain of your first heart attack...or the moment your newborn daughter wrapped her tiny hand around your finger...or the day, decades later, when you placed that daughter's hand into the hand of her groom....

---...yes....some days...some moments.....you never forget

→and this [evening] morning we hear about one such day in the lives of the apostles....an unforgettable day when Jesus was transfigured before their very own eyes.

→so why [we might ask] was this such a significant event....such an unforgettable and memorable event

---well I think it is important to [first] understand that the Transfiguration didn't happen for the sake of Jesus....but rather it happened for the sake of the apostles.

→Jesus knew that a change was coming into the life he shared with the apostles...a monumental change

→He had made them aware numerous times of his impending suffering and death...to which the apostles mightily resisted

“No” they told him in so many words, “no...this isn’t going to happen to you...we won’t let it.”

→and so Jesus takes the apostles up on to the mountain and is transfigured before their very eyes...in order to **TRANSFORM** the apostles.

→they were in need of a “CHANGE” in perspective and understanding..... in order to accept and live into the hard change ahead of them that would impact their lives forever

i.o.w.....Jesus used this peak moment....this special event....to prepare the disciples for another significant event the on the horizon...his impending death and resurrection.

---.....and today, just like the disciples, we too are in the midst of preparing [right now] for a great and unforgettable event...a peak moment...the celebration of Easter...and our eventual resurrection as well.

→this Lenten Season is an opportunity for us....with grace and gladness.....to strengthen our spiritual muscle, to stretch our endurance and to transform and change our lives

→now is the time for us to also look at the life we are living and in this peak moment... change what we don’t like about ourselves, and transform ourselves into the image of Christ.

→that is what today's lesson is all about

----Jesus takes Peter, James and John "up on a high mountain and is transfigured before them....in an unforgettable moment

→ so that they, themselves would also be changed and transformed

→and that same type of change, of transformation is what this Lent and beyond calls us too.

→in fact...that is why we come here each week to Church...the purpose of our being here...is because [hopefully] of our desire to change who we are, to be a better person this coming week than we were last week....to walk out those doors....with a new attitude and a new perspective as we all face a variety of challenges each week.....and.....to do so as a changed and transfigured person.

→this...is our peak moment each and every week.....our time to acknowledge the struggles we face...our time to examine our lives, our time to search our heart and soul.....in hope of changing ourselves for the better.

→[to look at those things we don't like about ourselves and to do something about them in order to change]

→that is what the purpose of Lent is and that is the meaning behind the story of the transfiguration

PAUSE

→IN THE END....

---if this season of Lent is to mean anything

---if it is to have any depth, if it is to have any purpose....then there has to be a peak moment in which something happens to you and me

→a change in attitude

→a change in our thoughts, words, actions and faith.....

→a change in our heart

→this might be the time....a day...a moment...we never forget.....a moment in life when we decided to be a transfigured person

→a day in which we leave behind our narrow way of living and move towards a more abundant life of faith and sharing, of kindness and compassion, of tolerance and patience.

→in the end [you see]...it's really about the change Christ is trying to make in you and me...and our response to this change

→in this Lent...may we embrace this opportunity to which God is now calling us to....and may do so “with grace and gladness.”