

A good life is what we all want. What we long for. For ourselves. our family. What does a good life look like for the Christian, for you.

Now about eight days after these sayings -He took with him Peter, John, James and went up on the mountain. Peter had seen so much good life! Wherever Jesus went, blind given sight, lepers cleansed, people healed, even dead raised. The One with power to change water into wine, to calm storms, drive out demons -all the stuff we've heard this Epiphany. Who doesn't want that good life.

But what Jesus had said, **now about 8 days after these sayings** was too much for Peter; what were "these sayings"...of following Jesus meant denial of yourself, living to him, to daily endure for His sake, it will mean struggle and hurt, and of Jesus upcoming passion, what He must do in Jerusalem, how He will suffer many things, be killed. And with that saying, Peter, like us, we think we know better than God what is for our good, for a good life, Peter insist no! It will not happen to you. And then you know what happens, Jesus gives one of the strongest rebukes, **get behind me, Satan! You're a hindrance to Me. For your mind isn't set on things of God, but on the things of man.**

Peter had it all figured out: the way of God was from good to better to greater glory. Glorious Jesus should glorify His followers. No tough crosses to bear. No painful hurts or suffering. Peter is no different than you or me. A good life should mean success, happiness, kids don't get in trouble or misbehave, plenty of things, life with more of my dreams come true for me and family, more and more, better and better, long and well-lived life, That's us, isn't it? We should have to take up a Cross means humiliation, suffering, death - would counts that as good life? You're a follower of Jesus, after all!

What sets everything up, **these saying, 8 days ago**, now, right in front of Peter and 2 other glory-grubbing disciples, Jesus transfigured. No wonder Peter said **It is good that we are here**— of course the mountaintop is better than passion and cross and a good life without hurts or sacrifice. Both for Jesus and for him, at least in Peter's mind.

What Peter, James, John saw that day was nothing like you've ever seen; like nothing you'll ever see on this earth. The divinity of Jesus burst through His human nature. All the Gospel writers can do when they tells us about what happened is talk in approximations; can't say

what it actually was. Jesus' face altered, shone like a sun, clothing dazzling white; one thing's for certain: it was all glorious. Just what Peter had been waiting for, glory so great it can't be accurately described.

It is good that we are here! And just to make sure it stays just like this, let's make, each of you—a little tabernacle. an ingenious move. A tabernacle, tent, where the glory of God dwells. Nothing but sheer Messianic glory. God to be ever glorious before us now without a passion and cross. What a good life. That was something Peter could get behind. But it doesn't last on the mount. It's gone. Jesus only gives them a glimpse of His glory, to sustain them for what is to come.

Listen to Him. Yes, Peter and you. Listen to Him, learn that if there is to be good for you that He must go to Jerusalem, suffer many things, be killed. Listen to Him and learn that before resurrection, there must be death—even the death of God for the sins of the world. Listen to Him; learn that your life is in the blood He shed for you and in the body that was nailed to the Holy Cross.

And to confirm that very point, they kept silent. Jesus said: **Tell no one until the Son of Man is raised.** First suffering, then glory. The shame of the cross that sinners might have the glory of resurrection.

And just as He had to prepare Peter for the way of the cross, so must He prepare you, too. In this life you will have tribulation. Just as He promised. **listen to Him.**

A good life is yours because only this: He is good, His steadfast love endures forever. Life with Jesus under a cross, not of glory here. A life living in His forgiveness. That is enough. There is no other life to live. No matter what comes, He will use it for your good, so it is a good life. He does all things, even amid your failures and doubts and struggles, for your good life. Why someone with disease, why someone dying, someone with great trials, with great scars and hurts can say, 'I have a good life, for the Lord is mine'. Yes, you also have wondrous blessings, successes, good things; but to see a good life is not defined by your thoughts, your measures, you following your dreams, but a good life is defined only by His works in your life - only defined by a life with Jesus living in gifts of His declaration. Just what Jesus gives you from the baptismal font, wants to give you this morning from His holy altar.