

2nd Sunday of Lent A 2020  
Gen. 12.1-4//2 Tim. 1.8-10//Matt.17.1-9

→Several years ago the pope came to the United States...and as he was being driven from the airport he was admiring the limo he was riding in....

→he was so impressed with what a nice car it was...that he asked the driver whether he could drive it...

→how could the driver say “no” to the pope...so he traded places with the pope...the pope was now driving and the chauffeur was sitting in the back seat.

→well the pope was having such a fun time driving, that before he knew it, he was seriously exceeding the speed limit, weaving in and out of traffic and cutting off other drivers.

→of course a policeman spotted the limo and eventually pulled it over

→as the officer walked to the car, he noticed the man sitting in the back seat....but he was really shocked when he saw who was driving.

→he walked back to his squad car and radioed the police chief...saying, “I don’t know what to do...I just stopped a really important person”

→the chief responded... “well give him a ticket” and the officer said... “but you don’t understand...he’s really really important.”

→the chief said... “well who is it, a senator, the governor, the president?”

→to which the officer responded... “I don’t know who he is, but whoever he is, he’s got the pope as his chauffeur.”

→today...we hear about the importance of Jesus....as we recall the story of the transfiguration...

→it is interesting to note...that besides the “baptism of Jesus” in the Jordan river...this is the only other event that is recorded four separate times in the New Testament...and today we hear Matthew’s version.

→the three words that begin today’s gospel truly set the tone for what is about to happen...the three words are: “after six days...”

→we hardly ever hear a reference to time in the gospel...the miracles and teachings of Jesus’ ministry just seem to follow one after another without any specific indication as to what order they occurred in or how they were connected...

→however, with the Transfiguration....Matthew, Mark and Luke all begin their accounts in the same way.... “after six days....” which leads one to think that the transfiguration of Jesus is certainly connected to some previous event..

→and that event...was when Jesus asked the disciples... “who do you say that I am” recall.....Peter answers correctly when he says... “ you are the Messiah...the Son of the living God.”

→and within a few days after that profession....Jesus is transfigured before the disciples....it is a significant...unforgettable...and memorable event

PAUSE

→I think it important to 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 things were going to soon **change** between him and the apostles

→he had made them aware numerous times of his impending suffering and death...to which the apostles mightily resisted....telling him...“this isn’t going to happen to you...we won’t let it.”

PAUSE

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

→[you see] they were in need of a “CHANGE” [ in perspective].... in order to accept and live what lied ahead of them...events that would impact their lives forever

→.....and just like the disciples, we too are in the midst of preparing [right now] for a great and unforgettable event...a change in our lives as we get ready for Easter... PAUSE

→this Lenten Season is an opportunity for us to strengthen our spiritual muscle, to stretch our endurance...and even experience some pain....in an effort to transform our lives

→to look at the life we are living and gain...that inner strength... that internal desire to change what we don't like about ourselves

→and more importantly...to begin living out the change we want to make

→today's message is all about change.....

----Jesus takes Peter, James and John "up to a high mountain and is transfigured before them....so that they, themselves, would also be changed and transformed

→and that same type of change, of transformation is what we are all about as well.

→that's why we come here each week to Church....it's because of our desire to change who we are, **to be**...a better person in the coming week than we were in the last week....to walk out of here....with a new attitude, a new strength...a new courage...to face all the challenges in the coming week.....and to do so as a changed and transfigured person....renewed and refreshed!

→...our time here each week...this season of Lent...is our changeable moment...our time to work, struggle, and examine our lives, hearts, and souls...in hope of changing for the better.

PAUSE

→IN THE END....

→if this season of Lent is to mean anything

→if it is to have any depth or purpose or meaning...then something needs to happen to you and me

→a change...a transformation...a transfiguration in our attitudes

→our thoughts, our words, our faith.....

→a change in our heart...has to be our goal.....

→you see... it's not about who's driving the limo or who's sitting in the back seat...but rather it's about what direction the car is going..

→it's about...the change Christ is trying to make in you and me...and our response

→...may we always...especially in this time of Lent.... embrace, accept, and live out the change to which God is now calling us

→for that...truly is our Lenten Blessing that Awaits!