



Transformed & Transfigured

We all experience moments of transfiguration. We all are tempted to exclaim: "How good it is for us to be here."

But reality is earthbound and every day. Suffering and sacrifice are essential elements of discipleship. Just before they go up to the mountain, Jesus tells his disciples "If you wish to come after me, you must first deny your very self, take up your cross and follow in my steps." And his steps are soon to take him into Jerusalem where he will face his cross. The difficult task of ministry awaits the disciples. Having now experienced a moment of transfiguration, it is no wonder they want to stay where life is cushy, comfortable, and sure.

Walking down the mountain that day, I am sure the disciples glanced back over their shoulders at the place where things had been so clear for them.

We too look over our shoulders. When life's "transfiguration moments" have ended, we glance back over our shoulders at a world torn apart by war and hatred, by polarizing ideologies, and by human suffering, sickness and death. There's a little bit of Peter in each of us, wanting to hold on to those moments that feel so special and unending. There is nothing wrong with that as long as we remember that it isn't just in the glory moments of life that God is present to us.

- (from *food for thought*, Bulletin 6 Aug 2023; Gospel: Mt. 17:1-9)