

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (A)
THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, LISTEN TO HIM

March 4/5, 2023

Every day, there is a call from God to do something. In Lent, it is a call to move from where we are to get closer to God. It is a call to repentance. We heard about the call of Abraham to leave his father's house and his kinsfolk to a place God would show him. The place was unknown to him, but he was ready to go.

He was told what he was going to benefit from it if he obeyed. He would be blessed and be a source of blessing to many people. He would also be a source of curse to those who would not show love and accept him. Abraham obeyed and went as the Lord directed him.

During the Transfiguration, the Lord Jesus was seen conversing with Moses and Elijah about His impending suffering. The three apostles, Peter, James and John found the place very good to be and wanted that they stayed there with Jesus, Moses and Elijah when they saw the glory of Christ. But the voice from the Father was that it was better to listen to His Son. Obedience to Jesus would help them experience the glory that was revealed to them at that moment. What is the message of Jesus that they had to listen to?

St. Paul has the answer, it is a call to a holy life. It is a call to bear our share in the sufferings of Christ and for the gospel. So, we are to listen and obey what we are being told to do. The call of God is to be prepared to move away from where we are to where God wants us to be. What is going to happen to us if we listen to Him is manifested through Jesus Himself who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality.

Therefore, in this Lenten season, I am called by God to leave my old way of life to a newness of life. I am to be obedient to the word of God. I am to discipline myself and share in the sufferings of Christ by sacrificing my life and everything for the sake of the needy, and loving others sincerely. The suffering of this present time is nothing compared to the glory shown and to be experienced in the near future, (Rom.8:18). I am to invest in my spiritual life. The earthly business is 50-50, but the heavenly one gives 100% good returns. I am not to be a spectator but a player in this season.

Abraham's obedience to God brought blessings to many people. In the same way and even greater, the obedience of Jesus to His Father has brought salvation to the whole world. This means that my response to God's call to do His will and do penance is a call to help others find God and experience His saving grace. I am called to be a source of blessing to my family, my parents, my children, my friends and all those I come in contact with.

I have to listen to Jesus because His works are trustworthy, He will deliver me from death and preserve me in spite of famine. His words will direct my life and tell me what is good and pleasing to God. His message will encourage me to persevere in times of temptations and difficulties. When the servants listened to Jesus at the wedding feast, the problem of the shortage of wine was solved (Jn.2"1-11). When Peter listened to Jesus, he and his people had a good catch of fish (Lk.5:1-11). So, if I listen to the Lord my problems can be solved, and my needs met. My sins will be washed away and cleansed as Naaman experienced when he listened to the prophet Elisha (2Kg.5).

Was the promise to Abraham in vain? No. Was the glory shown to the three a sham or scam? No. There is so much evidence to show that the apostles' movement with Jesus and their investment in the Lord has yielded good results. We are the fruits of their obedience to the call to follow Jesus.

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