

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

EXPERIENCING THE GLORY OF THE LORD

August 5/6, 2023

We have been promised to be with the Lord and experience His glory. It is not physical but spiritual and so it is difficult to see. God did not want to put in us in the dark about it, so He manifested it to Daniel and other prophets. Isaiah once saw God's glory (Isa.6:1-3). Today, we heard that Daniel also saw the kingdom of God and His glory. He also saw Jesus, the Son of man.

The Ancient One (God) was surrounded by fire and bright light. The Son of man was given dominion, glory, and kingship. 'His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, and His kingship shall not be destroyed'. He is served by all peoples, nations and languages.

The vision of Daniel became a reality with the Transfiguration of the Lord. Jesus revealed His glory to the three apostles to let them know that after the suffering, there will be joy. His appearance was like what Daniel saw in his vision; His face shone like the sun and His clothes became white as light. Both the vision of Daniel and Jesus' Transfiguration tell us that there is no darkness around the Lord, and the light is radiated through those who are righteous in the Lord; (eg. Mary and the saints described in Rev. 7&12).

St. Peter wants to assure us that whatever is described in the vision was not a story, but it really happened. It was not a myth, but they saw it and heard the message from the Father, because they were with Him on the mountain. He said also that they possessed the prophetic message that is altogether reliable.

They saw Jesus with Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets. They were talking about the sufferings which Christ was to undergo. Their meeting was also to reveal or confirm that Jesus has come to fulfil the Law and the Prophets. He is the bridge between the Old and the New covenants.

It is clear that the Lord will not deceive anybody who wants to follow Him. He let the disciples know that despite everything, there is hope of glory. The sufferings would end up with rejoicing. The message from the Father is to confirm that Jesus is not a fake person and listening to Him is necessary to know the way to the kingdom and to know what to do to achieve salvation.

The kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and there is no darkness, sorrow or suffering. This is where I am invited to be and to experience all the pleasant things found there one day. If I listen to the Lord and do what He wants me to do, then I will be there. What is the message from the Lord? What is He saying to me every day? Do I hear His voice? There are many voices all around me calling me to do this and that. Even in the Church, there are so many voices and messages which are making many people wonder which one is from the Lord.

But the clear message of the Lord is that He wants me to repent. That was His first message to His disciples: "This is the time of fulfilment. The reign of God is at hand! Reform your lives and believe in the gospel!" (Mk.1:15). He wants me to learn from Him to be humble and gentle of heart. I should be merciful, kind-hearted and a peacemaker. He wants me to love as He loves and be close to Him all the time. His call to me is to be prepared always to endure suffering for His sake.

Am I able to heed what the Lord tells me to do? Do I want to do things that please me? Do I want to listen to other people more than what the Lord says, because what they say appeals to my ears more than what I hear from Him? The priestly prayer of Jesus is a confirmation of His desire to draw all things to Himself. He prayed: "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see my glory which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world". (Jn.17:24). Do I want to experience the glory of the Lord?