

The Cloud of Glory 3/17/19

In our First reading from the Book of Genesis, we see how God keeps his promises through a covenant relationship with Abraham and all his descendants forever. Abraham offered the sacrifice then was covered by “some thick darkness” and falls into a trance. He sees the flaming torch (God’s presence) and hears the words that said to him “to your descendants I will give this land”....

In the gospel passage, Peter, James and John had been pulled along by Jesus to Mt. Tabor to pray. They became privileged eyewitnesses of the transfiguration of Jesus. They were completely amazed and lost in that experience so much that Peter said, “Lord it is good for us to be here”, let us make three tents: one for you, one for Elijah and one for Moses”. From the cloud that covered them emerged the voice of the Father “This is my beloved Son, listen to him”. The Father’s voice affirmed Jesus as the beloved Son and commanded obedience to him.

Like Abraham and the Apostles, we have also entered into some deep darkness, a trance of faith where God renews his covenant forever. Like the Apostles, Christ reveals his glory to us to reassure us. Let’s persevere through our lenten journey. God promises to renew us with grace and transform the darkness around us to the shining splendor of his glory.

The revelation of the glory of God in the transfiguration was a foretaste of the heavenly glory, which the disciples were called to possess at the end of their journeys of faith. It was a confirmation of their faith in the one in whom they had believed. This was to strengthen their faith against the future scandals of the cross. We are made for glory and our journeys are toward the glorious vision of Christ, where we shall see Christ face to face. That vision should always be before us. It is the way we are called to live as people who are covered by the glory of God.

The voice of the father calls us this second week of Lent to listen to his Son. Are we ready to hear his voice that speaks of peace and brotherly love? Are we ready to obey his call to leave behind anything that cuts short our glory in Christ? May God strengthen us to realize the vision that is before us as Christians.

Fr. Francis