

And after six days, the Gospel notes, what happened? Peter had made his great confession. **You are the Christ, Son of the Living God.** Then Jesus speaks of His suffering, cross and death; He must go to Jerusalem. St. Peter gets a rebuke when he doesn't want it to happen. Then Jesus told all the disciples -even for you -take this to heart, for this is your life. He says, **If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?**

Now on their way to Jerusalem for His passion. Jesus takes His inner circle of disciples with Him on the mount, to reveal a glimpse of His glory, to help comfort them (and you) for what is to come and what the future holds. Here you see Moses and Elijah, represent the entire Old Testament, which all points to Jesus, validates Jesus as the Christ. The heavenly conversation they have is about Jesus' exodus, His passion and resurrection.

The Father proclaims the Son, true man, and amid the glory, His divinity of the equal Godhead being shown, **listen to Him.** Overwhelming in the present of God veiled, the disciples, terrified, Jesus reaches out in compassion. **Rise, and have no fear.** And the notation that **they saw no one but Jesus only.** Not just a narrative but a theology to live to focus on **Jesus only.**

Jesus says not to tell anyone about His transfiguration yet, not until after His resurrection. Only then would they fully understand, able to talk about it rightly. For now, this vision was given to them to strengthen them for the faith-shaking events that would soon be coming during Holy Week.

Listen to Him. Rise, and have no fear. And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

St. Peter, tell you that you have something, right now, even greater than when he was with Jesus is on the Mt. with Moses, Elijah, the voice of the Father- you have the Scriptures. The Scriptures, studied, read, His preaching. **Listen to Him.** That's the problem I have with you people. You don't listen well. Neither do I. We are quick to listen to our own voice in our head. We are quick to listen to media and many voices that speak contrary to His Word. So easily distracted. **Listen to Him.** How often we undermine the trust, the comfort, the confidence, the surety, security, the rest that our Lord gives you now in His Word. Repent. **Rise, and have no fear.**

St. Peter reminds you **that you will do well to pay attention to this Word as to a lamp shining in a dark place.** There are lots of dark places. Lots of dark things out there, if you spent a couple nights on patrol with the police on the streets you would be traumatized by all the darkness. And there is

darkness in here, in us. The darkness of man, darkness of disease, darkness of the world that invades our lives, all that may come in our homes, in our communities, in our nation, in our world. **Listen to Him. Rise, and have no fear.** You have His Word that does not ever fail you. **To see Jesus only.** This is your now and your future on the mount. As with the disciples, to comfort you in these times.

There are good times, good days yet they don't seem to last long. Things going well, and one thing happens, life unravels. Quiet and peaceful times are disrupted with family unrest. Your own sinful flesh will lead to much sin and vice. Satan will attack. Things seem well and good, you're happy, then the next moment issues with people, work, things not going well; you see the news, look around, who can you trust, surrounded by immoral woke culture, lies, dirty politics, vanity, corruption, surround by a dark world that inundates us with life, ideas contrary to **listen to Him.** Darkness easily can set in. Infects us all. Life wears you down. Every family has issues. A host of things to distract, capture our attention. The focus we so desperately need, to **see Jesus only** amid it all.

We live in critical times for the continuation of the faith, even struggle to live Christian, from the attacks of our sinful flesh and world that works to fill our life with business, distractions on everything else but Jesus. **Listen to Him.**

We presume -so often- that God's primary concern is our happiness when His real concern is our holiness, that is bringing us from sin to righteousness, from death to life, to draw you out of this world but life now in His kingdom. **Rise, and have no fear.** For it will be a good day, every day a good day for the sole reason that He is good and His mercy endures for you forever. Your light in the darkness. It will be well, even when its not, for you are His.

How often do you undermine the promises Jesus makes you. Repent of it. For in the midst of all our misdirected fear, worry, things that rob you of joy, mistrust how God can possibly work things out. **Listen to Him. Rise, and have no fear.** Jesus comes to comfort you. His words bring about what they say. **I am with you.** And if that is so, who can be against you? What do you need to be afraid of? **Do well to pay attention to this Word as to a lamp shining in a dark place.**

For parents and children who fail. For who struggle to live right. For those attacked with temptation, for those with trust issues, anxiety, those with health issues. For families and people with issues, those broken. You Lord comes to you today, as St. Peter contends, even greater to you than on that mount. God still veils Himself so sinful man can see Him in this realm, veils Himself, His glory, Word made flesh, as to them, also to you, to touch you now in the Sacrament, with compassion, **rise and have no fear, I am with you.** You have His Word.