

St. Barnabas Homily. 2ND SUN LENT 03/17/2019 (Luke 9: 28b- 36) Yr C

MANY OF YOU “**MATURE**” CHRISTIANS,,, MAY REMEMBER A TV SHOW CALLED; **TV’S BLOOPERS AND PRACTICAL JOKES.** WELL,,, BLOOPERS,,, HAVE NEVER BEEN LIMITED TO TV SHOWS. IN FACT,,, SOME OF THE FUNNIEST BLOOPERS,,, HAVE ***OFTEN APPEARED IN CHURCH BULLETINS.*** HERE’S A COUPLE OF EXAMPLES,,, THAT HELP TELL US,,, THAT SOMETIMES,,, THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS THEY SEEM:

(*) ***“EILEEN REMAINS IN THE HOSPITAL AND NEEDS BLOOD DONORS FOR MORE TRANSFUSIONS. SHE IS ALSO HAVING TROUBLE SLEEPING AND REQUESTS TAPES OF PASTOR PETE’S SERMONS!”***

(*) ***THE PASTOR WILL PREACH HIS FAREWELL MESSAGE AFTER WHICH,,, THE CHOIR WILL SING; “BREAK FORTH INTO JOY”.***

THE DISCIPLES IN TODAY’S GOSPEL READING,,, ALSO MADE A “**HUGE BLOOPER**”,,, ALTHOUGH NOT ON PURPOSE. TODAY,,, BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, I’D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT THE: ***TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS,,,*** AND HOW PETER,,, JAMES AND JOHN,,, HAD A PERSONAL; ***“MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCE”***

HAVE YOU EVER HAD,,, A MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE? THOSE ARE THE TIMES IN YOUR LIVES,,, WHEN YOU FEEL GOD’S PRESENCE,,, IN A GLORIOUS AND POWERFUL WAY AND IN A WAY,,, THAT YOU DON’T EXPERIENCE,,, IN YOUR EVERY DAY LIFE!

YOU KNOW,,, LIKE WHEN YOU STAND AT THE BRIM OF THE GRAND CANYON AND TAKE IN,,, ALL IT’S MAJESTY,,, **OR:** WHEN YOU SEE A NEWBORN CHILD BROUGHT INTO THE WORLD,,,

OR; PERHAPS LIKE WHEN YOU FACE A MOMENT OF CRISIS IN YOUR LIFE,,, AND YOU FELT GOD'S PRESENCE & GLORY COME OVER YOU,,, AND YOU FEEL PEACE,,, BECAUSE GOD HAS STEPPED IN,,, AND PROVIDED WHAT YOU NEEDED.

THOSE MOMENTS,,, ARE UNFORGETTABLE.

WE WANT TO HOLD ONTO THEM & BOTTLE EM UP,,, FOR SOME OTHER TIME,,, WHEN WE MIGHT NEED THEM MORE? TODAY,,, WE STAND AS ONLOOKERS,,, WITH PETER,,, JAMES AND JOHN,,, AND WE SEE A VERY SPECIAL EXPERIENCE. OUR STORY,,, IS FROM PETER'S LIFE AND WE SEE PETER STILL LEARNING AND WE SEE MORE GROWING PAINS GOING ON,,, IN NOT JUST PETER,,, BUT,,, IN ALL OF THE DISCIPLES LIVES. THEY'RE ABOUT TO SEE;

THE TRANSFIGURATION,,, OF JESUS

BUT FIRST,,, **WHAT IS THE "TRANSFIGURATION"?**

THE WORD; "**TRANSFIGURATION**",,, COMES FROM THE LATIN WORD "**METAMORPHOUS**",,, AND IT MEANS,,,

A CHANGE,,, FROM THE INSIDE OUT!

THE TRANSFIGURATION,,, IS AN EVENT REPORTED IN THE GOSPELS,,, WHERE JESUS IS **TRANSFIGURED**,,, **CHANGED**,,, FROM THE INSIDE OUT,,, UP ON MT. TABOR,,, "**A HIGH MOUNTAIN**",,, LOCATED IN EASTERN GALILEE,,, ABOUT 11 MILES WEST OF THE SEA OF GALILEE AS IS STATED,,, IN (**MATTHEW 17.1**).

THE GOSPELS SAY; PETER,,, JAMES AND JOHN,,, WERE WITH JESUS,,, UP ON THE MOUNTAIN,,, WHEN THE TRANSFIGURATION OCCURRED.

WHEN THE TRANSFIGURATION MIRACLE HAPPENED,,, WE SEE **JESUS' DIVINE EXALTED POSITION**,,, AS HE'S JOINED BY MOSES AND ELIJAH,,, TWO PRE-EMINENT FIGURES,,, OF **OLD TESTAMENT JUDAISM.**

BROTHERS & SISTERS,,, THE TRANSFIGURATION,,, PROVES JESUS' IDENTITY,,, AS; **THE SON OF GOD!**

SCRIPTURE TAKES US,,, UP ON THAT MOUNTAINTOP,,, WITH JESUS,,, MOSES,,, ELIJAH,,, AND THE DISCIPLES.

FOR JESUS,,, IT'S A TIME FOR CONFIRMATION AND AFFIRMATION,,, AS THE MESSIAH AND,,, AS GOD'S SON.

FOR THE THREE CLOSEST DISCIPLES OF JESUS,,, ON THIS PARTICULAR DAY,,, GOD REVEALED THE GLORY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. IT WAS A BRIEF LOOK INTO THE DIVINE GLORY OF GOD AND A **PEEK**,,, AT THE REALITY OF THE GLORY,,, THAT LIES AHEAD,,, FOR US,,, IN THE COMING KINGDOM OF GOD.

FOR A BRIEF TIME,,, THE VEIL OF JESUS' HUMANITY AND HIS SETTING ASIDE HIS GLORY,,, WAS CHANGED,,, FROM THE INSIDE-OUT.

THE FULLNESS OF HIS DIVINE BEING AND HIS GLORY; RADIATED THROUGH HIS ENTIRE BEING,,, AND THAT MOUNTAINTOP,,, BECAME; **“THE HOLY OF HOLIES!”**

AS THE DISCIPLES WERE TOGETHER,,, ON THAT MOUNTAIN TOP,,, JESUS WAS TRANSFORMED BEFORE THEM.

HE WAS DAZZLING,,, IN THE BRILLIANCE OF THE PURE WHITE LIGHT,,, OF THE GLORIOUS KINGDOM OF GOD,,, WHO IS LIGHT!

THE DISCIPLES SAW JESUS,,, AS **HE WILL BE**,,, WHEN HE COMES AGAIN,,, IN THE FULLNESS OF THE KINGDOM.

YET,,, THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR,,, **FIRST**; JESUS WAS TO SUFFER,,, **THEN**,,, THE GLORY!

THE GOSPELS SAY; ***AS SOON AS MOSES AND ELIJAH APPEARED,,, THEY WERE SPEAKING WITH JESUS ABOUT,,, WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN TO HIM,,, IN JERUSALEM.***

IN JESUS DAY,,, THERE WERE NO PICTURES,,, AND THE DISCIPLES HAD NEVER MET THE PROPHETS BEFORE,,, BUT AMAZINGLY,,, THEY IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED THEM,,, EVEN THOUGH,,, THESE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS,,, HAD DIED,,, HUNDREDS OF YEARS BEFORE.

SO,,, WHY MOSES AND ELIJAH? *WELL,,, MOSES,,, WAS THE GREAT LAWGIVER,,, HE REPRESENTED THE OLD COVENANT,,, THE LAW,,, AND ALL THE PROMISES,,, THAT WOULD BE FULFILLED BY JESUS.*

AND,,, *ELIJAH,,, HE WAS THE GREATEST OF THE PROPHETS. HEREPRESENTED THE PROPHETS,,, AND ALL THEY FORTOLD; ABOUT JESUS' COMING,,, HIS DEATH & HIS GLORIFICATION.*

THE PRESENCE OF MOSES AND ELIJAH,,, THERE AND THEN IN THEIR HEAVENLY BODIES,,, TELL US,,, HOW WE'LL MEET THE LORD,,, AND WHAT WE'LL LOOK LIKE,,, AT HIS 2ND COMING!

SCRIPTURE TELLS US,,, WHAT HAPPENS TO BELIEVERS,,, WHEN WE DIE. THE MOMENT WE'RE CAUGHT UP,,, TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR,,, WE'RE CHANGED,,, AND WE BECOME,,, LIKE HIM.

FOR BELIEVERS,,, WHO HAVE DIED IN CHRIST,,, LIKE MOSES,,, THEIR BODIES RISE 1ST,,, THEN,,, BELIEVERS WHO ARE STILL ALIVE,,, WHEN CHRIST RETURNS,,, ARE CAUGHT UP IN THE AIR,,, TO MEET THE LORD,,, LIKE ELIJAH WAS.

AS USUAL,,, IMPULSIVE PETER JUMPS INTO THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN MOSES,,, ELIJAH AND JESUS,,, SAYING; *MASTER,,, IT IS GOOD THAT WE ARE HERE. LET US MAKE THREE TENTS,,, ONE FOR YOU,,, ONE FOR MOSES AND ONE FOR ELIJAH*".

THAT WAS HUMAN THINKING,,, NOT DIVINE WISDOM!

OF COURSE,,, IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL,,, TO LIVE ON THE MOUNTAINTOP,,, OF SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES,,, THAT WE HAVE WITH GOD!

IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL,,, TO SHARE THOSE TIMES OF BLESSING AND RESTORING. BUT,,, *TRUE DISCIPLESHIP,,, REQUIRES US,,, TO WALK WITH JESUS,,, TO TAKE UP OUR CROSS OF DENYING SELFISH DESIRES,,, AND TO WALK THROUGH THE VALLEYS OF LIFE,,, WITH HIM!*

ALL OF THE SUDDEN,,, GOD THE FATHER INTERRUPTS PETER,,, WITH A VOICE,,, FROM THE CLOUD OF HIS HOLY PRESENCE,,, A CLOUD THAT BOTH REVEALS,,, BUT AT THE SAME TIME,,, CONCEALS HIS GLORY.

GOD FOCUSED THE ATTENTION,,, OF THE DISCIPLES,,, **BACK ON JESUS,,, WHO WAS AND IS,,, THE LIVING WORD OF GOD,,,**WHEN HE SAID;

“THIS IS MY CHOSEN SON,,, LISTEN TO HIM!”

SUDDENLY,,, THEY WERE ALONE. THE DISCIPLES FOCUS,,, WAS ON THIS GREAT EVENT,,, AND,,, THEY MISSED THE WHOLE POINT!

SO THE FATHER HAD TO REFOCUS THEIR ATTENTION,,, BACK ONTO JESUS. GOD WAS TELLING THEM,,, “PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT JESUS HAD BEEN TELLING THEM,,, AND WAS GOING TO TELL THEM”.

IN OUR LIVES,,, WE DON'T NEED ANYTHING MORE,,, THAN TO *TURN TO THE WORD OF GOD IN THE SCRIPTURES*,,, FOR STRENGTH AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

THEY INSTRUCT,,, GUIDE,,, REPROVE,,, AND TEACH US,,, ABOUT THE PROMISES,,, GRACE AND LOVE,,, OF THE FATHER,,, AND OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR,,, JESUS CHRIST!

THE DISCIPLES REALIZED THAT THEY WERE ALONE WITH JESUS AND AS THEY STARTED DOWN THE MOUNTAIN,, INTO THE VALLEY,, JESUS REMINDED THEM,, AGAIN,, OF THE WHOLE POINT OF HIS MINISTRY.

SAYING; ***DON'T TELL ANYONE WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE,, UNTIL THE SON OF MAN HAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD.*** AND THE DISCIPLES WONDERED,, WHAT HE MEANT?

STILL,, THEY DIDN'T GET IT! EVEN AFTER HE TOLD THEM THAT HE MUST DIE,, RISE AGAIN,, AND BE GLORIFIED,, AND EVEN AFTER THEY HAD JUST SEEN HIS GLORIFIED BODY,, THEY STILL DIDN'T GET IT!

THIS WHOLE SCENE,, IS A PICTURE,, OF GOD'S PROVISION FOR OUR OWN; ***TRANSFORMATION OF SPIRIT,, ON THE INSIDE!***

THIS TRANSFORMATION,, THE GLORIOUS VISION OF OUR SAVIOR,, THAT WE HEARD ABOUT TODAY,, PROVES TO US THAT WE HAVE THE ASSURANCE,, THAT ONE DAY WE WILL SEE,, WHAT THE DISCIPLES SAW,, WHEN THEY WERE WITH JESUS ON THE MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION.

MAY THE LORD GOD GRANT,, THROUGH OUR FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS,, THAT OUR HEARTS WILL BE TRANSFIGURED,, BY THE POWER OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT AND THAT WE WILL BE COURAGEOUS AND STOUTHEARTED,, AS WE FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON JESUS,, AND WAIT FOR HIS COMING.

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

AMEN

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(1,324 WDS 6 PGS)

