



The Feast of the Transfiguration

Three important lessons can be learned from the Transfiguration of Jesus. It is the experience of Jesus going up the mountain with Peter, James and John and being transfigured before their eyes. Jesus is speaking with Moses and Elijah. The first lesson: If you go up the mountain, be prepared to meet God. Many of us go to the mountain or desert or retreat house to find God. When we do so, we need to be prepared to find God there. The difficulty sometimes about finding God is knowing what to do when we find Him; to be touched by God is a call to change, to transformation.

Second lesson: God-experiences are to be shared. Peter, James and John went to the mountain with Jesus and found that the mountain top experience was one of departure, not dependence. The Transfiguration story looks ahead to the passion and resurrection of Jesus. It looks ahead to action and service, not to tent building and security. In the wonderfulness of the Transfiguration, the three disciples found that a cloud engulfed them and in the darkness of the cloud they came to know the light. They discovered that they needed to come down from the mountain and make a difference in the world.

Third lesson: To know light, one must first experience darkness. Jesus had to experience crucifixion and death to know the glory and power of the resurrection. We are asked to share our spirituality (our experience of God) with others. That is done through our Christian action: through our own need for conversion and transformation that comes when we enter more deeply into Christian action; through our coming out of ourselves sharing our resources with those in need – the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the abused; through our attempts to be makers of peace in our families, our communities and our world; through our response to the special challenges of injustice and lack of peace in our world.

Whenever we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, we share peace with one another. We forgive one another as well as nourish and nurture each other. We leave the mysterious and wonderful experience of the mountain top and go forth to be Christ for one another.

Father David