

“This is my beloved Son, listen to Him”.

There's a story about a Sufi Master who was approached by a young man who wanted to be his disciple. To impress the Master, the man went on and on about his academic achievements, his experience, and great accomplishments in serving and helping people. The Master listened in silence, and slowly began to fill a teacup with tea. When the cup was filled, he kept filling it with more tea until it spilled all over. "Stop, Master!" cried the young man, "the cup can't hold any more tea." To which the Master replied: *"Neither can I teach you anything. You are too full of yourself now. Come back when you've made some room within you to hold a new thought."*

Today we celebrate the “Sunday of Transfiguration”, where the Gospel Reading takes us to the mountain-top to ponder the mystery of the Transfiguration of the Lord and calls us to 'holiness' by having a “mountain-top experience”; of spiritually strengthening in us the Christian virtues Faith, Hope and Love.

In the event of Transfiguration, the union of God with humanity in the one man, Jesus Christ, was made manifest in a special way. Jesus becomes transfigured, i.e., the veil is lifted, and his 3 disciples receive a glimpse of his divinity shining forth through his humanity. It is as if this transfiguration was necessary for Jesus to give his disciples a glimpse of his divinity, that he really is *'the Son of God.'* - *because they were desperate of their expectations!* The glory of Jesus' transfiguration was preparing them to accept the scandal of the cross.

The power of this vision also lies in the presence of all *three persons of the Blessed Trinity*. The Transfiguration of Jesus displays Jesus as *'the Son of God,'* which clearly echoes in the voice from heaven: *“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; Listen to him.”* Here God is telling them

that Jesus knows what he is talking about and salvation will come through him.

In the vision, the presence of Moses and Elijah attests to Jesus' total fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, and although the two are *'in glory'*, he is found conversing with them about his forthcoming death. Moses, the one who symbolizes the scriptures and the law of God. And Elijah is the symbol for all the prophets.

Now, the disciples were overcome by the experience - and who can blame them! A vision that is both frightening and exhilarating! It would be wonderful for such an ecstasy to never end. Peter tries to, in a way, *make it manageable and permanent* - "I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" - as a lasting memorial of what has happened.

Friends, the transfiguration of Jesus is a small glimpse of the destination of our faith journey, which is, Christ's risen glory. It gives us the hope that we might reach that same destination, the light of life and immortality through the Gospel.

For our faith journey to be effective and fruitful, we need to have our destination in mind. There is, of course, always a danger of losing sight of it, of turning our eyes away. We need Christ to lift us up, to take away our fear. We should have eyes fixed on him only.

We need to create some room within ourselves, so that we can properly listen to him: "*This is my beloved son, listen to him*", so that we can be detached from the things of this world and not to fix our faces on the earth, but rather keeping our vision fixed on the Christ who touches our very lives, every day. So, let our eyes of faith be fixed on God, and let our hearts be open to listen to him, filled with hope, and let us joyfully look forward to the ultimate glory that awaits us all. Amen.