

2nd Sunday Lent B 2024

Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were



talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi', he said it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one

for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them anymore but only Jesus. As they came down the mountain, he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

Reflection on the Gospel

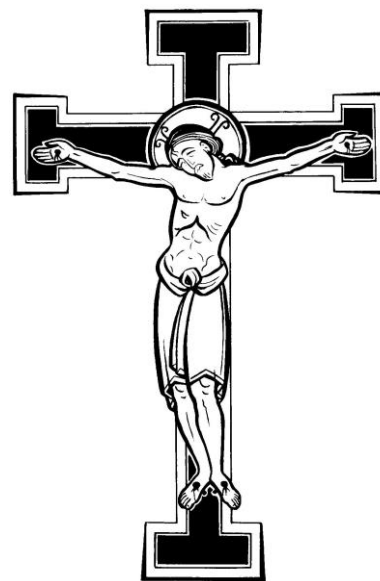
The Gospel of Mark offers a difficult portrait of Jesus and a difficult portrait of what it means to be a disciple of this Jesus. There are no easy answers to the problem of the cost of being true to Jesus and to the Gospel he proclaims and lives.

Sure the disciples left everything and followed him – including Peter, James and John, who feature in today's Gospel reading. But throughout the Gospel they fail to understand what Jesus is about. They are weak and fallible in the extreme. They show a deep-seated desire for the easy road, and power and glory. The idea of Jesus as crucified and abandoned is not something they can easily stomach.

Today's Gospel confirms that this is the way things will pan out. 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Still, they want to stay on the mountain and enjoy the beauty of the moment. But go down they must.

It is in the struggle to be true to his Father that Jesus finds his own destiny. Only when we acknowledge our own weaknesses, fallibilities and self-seeking can we find ours. In the end that is what all disciples have to do.

LIVING LENT



Lent is a time for letting go. If we are to come to know God and the meaning of real love, then we must learn to let go of our certainties and insisting on having things our own way. God in Jesus would have us understand that he is with us in every moment of our lives and each moment, whether at

the top of the mountain or in Gethsemane, is sacred. If we are to understand this, we must develop the art of doing what the Father has asked us and that is the art of listening, really listening to his Son.

Today many people suffer because they are Christians and because they live the Gospel.

'Father not my will, but yours be done'