

Sunday Reflection

◆ **First Reading:** *Genesis 22: 1-2. 9-13. 15-18*

◆ **Second Reading:** *Romans 8:31-34*

◆ **Gospel:** *Mark 9:2-10*

During the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor, when Jesus was transfigured into a glorified state, a voice came from a cloud “THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED, LISTEN TO HIM”, that was the voice of the Heavenly Father.

The word LISTEN is an interesting word, it can be used very powerfully to deal with serious disputes “NOW YOU LISTEN!!!”

No doubt teachers in front of their pupils every day would be over familiar with the command to “LISTEN, and pay attention”, as in, if you don’t listen, then you won’t learn much. Many examples can be used ; if parents don’t listen properly to their children, then they won’t properly grasp the joys and fears of their children. Many young people have left home for good with a complaint against their parents “THEY NEVER BOTHERED TO LISTEN TO ME!!!” Sadly we can all identify to a greater or lesser degree with this complaint. Much the same can be said in other walks of life, doctors must listen carefully to their patients, priests must do the same with their parishioners ; students must listen to their teachers etc.....

What would everyday life be like if we didn’t bother to listen to each other?? Too many of us nowadays are so “locked-into” our modern-day-technology, that our ability to LISTEN PROPERLY to another person is becoming more impaired ; Last week on the Piccadilly line I was surrounded by nine fellow passengers who were plugged into their smartphones and I said to myself “Gosh if I was lost and had to ask someone where to go or get off, who could I approach?, would anyone be even bothered looking at me?”

....and what about our ability to LISTEN to the promptings of the Holy Spirit? This of course demands proper prayer time, to sit for a while each day, to pray and be at peace in a world that is presently full of uncertainty. When we sit and listen in prayer, the Holy Spirit doesn't use words to communicate with us, more so the Spirit reaches the depths of our soul in his own many wonderful mysterious ways. To listen and to receive thru' prayer is difficult to put into words, the gift of inner peace is given eventually, a peace the world cannot give ; This ultimately is a gift from the Holy Spirit for those who pray, listen and persevere.

And one other point to reflect on in the context of the Transfiguration, and that is the existence of Heaven! On that great day when we reach Heaven having done our best on earth thru' prayer, perseverance and good works, we will also be transfigured, Heaven is forever. St.Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, describes the glorified state of the souls in Heaven, he says

THEN THERE ARE HEAVENLY BODIES AND THERE ARE EARTHLY BODIES, BUT THE HEAVENLY BODIES HAVE A BEAUTY OF THEIR OWN, AND THE EARTHLY BODIES A DIFFERENT ONE IT IS THE SAME WITH THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD,

THE THING THAT IS SOWN IS PERISHABLE, BUT WHAT IS RAISED IS IMPERISHABLE ; THE THING THAT IS SOWN IS CONTEMPTIBLE, BUT WHAT IS RAISED IS GLORIOUS ; THE THING THAT IS SOWN IS WEAK, BUT WHAT IS RAISED IS POWERFUL, WHEN IT IS SOWN, IT EMBODIES THE SOUL, WHEN IT IS RAISED IT EMBODIES THE SPIRIT.....

IF THE SOUL HAS ITS OWN EMBODIMENT, SO DOES THE SPIRIT HAVE ITS OWN EMBODIMENTSTAY HEALTHY, God Bless for now

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