

Homily for II (2) Sunday of Lent Year C 13-03-2022 by Fr. Lubem Waya, osj.

First Reading: Genesis 15:5-12,17-18

Psalm: Psalm 27

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36.

CAN YOU SEE THE LORD'S GLORY?

On this second Sunday of Lent we are reminded once again of God's providence even in the face of impossibilities. He makes a seemingly impossible promise to Abram to transform him from *Abram* (exalted father) to *Abraham* (father of a multitude of nations), whose descendants would number like the stars up the sky. For a man well over 75 years of age, this wasn't only impossible but ridiculous indeed. However, Abraham put his faith in God and so he believed first even before asking how it would happen. And in the end he was able to see the Lord's glory manifest in his life because of his trust in the Lord. What can blind us from recognizing the Lord's glory in our lives if not sin and lack of faith? Remember, Abraham put his faith in God who recognized this as an act of righteousness. Righteousness is the quality of being morally upright and justifiable which rightly translates to a virtuous life. This quality goes hand in hand with faith. It is a timeless truth re-echoed in Habbakuk 2:4 and in many New Testament teachings like Romans 5:19 where St. Paul reminds us once again that only by faith in Christ are we made righteous. This truth was first modelled in Abraham's life who embodied both righteousness and faith as the two inseparable parts of a coin, without which we cannot see and walk with God. So, ask yourself today, are you righteous before God? Do you place your faith and trust in Him even in impossible circumstances? If yes, then know it is inevitable that you will walk with Him and see His glory as Christ also demonstrates in the gospel passage.

He takes with Him Peter, James and John to the mountain to pray, and during this period He is transfigured right before them and they see His glory. They walked with Him to the mountain because of their faith in God. One who does not have faith cannot pray. To pray is to go to God's Mountain, for prayer is the loving awareness of the presence of God. And in prayer we encounter God and acknowledge His presence. This is the Christian attitude to prayer that renders prayer unceasing when its influence permeates the whole life of the praying Christian. In this way, the praying person or community receives a sense of God's Presence, and having encountered God, experiences the Divine virtues of love and grace, and is being transformed into a better image of God. This is the experience of Peter, James and John today, who are privileged to have a glimpse of the Lord's glory. Our prayer is not complete until it achieves this in us when we are transformed and made capable of beholding the Lord's glory. Have you beheld His glory? Then ask yourself, how do you pray?

Do you pray or you say prayers? When we pray, we are immersed in God whom we are communicating with, but then when we say prayers, we are only speaking to God which does not necessarily translate to being united with Him. When we pray, God elects us as He does with Jesus today 'this is my beloved Son.' Then, we too become His adopted children, united with Him. Because to pray is the first way of obeying God who has commanded us to pray. In Jeremiah 33:3 He says, "call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." That is why Jesus always prayed, and commanded His disciples to pray always and not give up (Cf. Luke 18:1). Therefore, whoever remembers how many times he or she prays is not praying well enough, for the right Christian attitude to prayer is unceasing. In this attitude the spiritual becomes real in our lives and we become reflections of God's glory to others as Jesus was to His disciples. And then, it is no longer we who work but the Mystery of God working in us. To help us achieve this, we must embrace the Word of God and the sacraments, and live in the observance of the pious practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This is when we can truly claim citizenship of heaven and join the psalmist to say 'the Lord is my light and my salvation.' May the Lord make us true reflections of His glory to bring light and salvation to the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.