

February 19, 2023 – The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Psalm: Psalm 2

7 - Let me announce the decree of the LORD, who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you."

It is generally believed that this Psalm was used during coronation ceremonies for a new king.

"This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3: 17) ("You are my Son" in Mark 1: 11 and Luke 3: 22) is a combination of Psalm 2: 7 ("You are my son") and Isaiah 42: 1 ("Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights").

Jesus is King, Son of God and God the Son, Servant, Chosen/Anointed/Messiah/Christ. At His baptism He did not become something that He had not previously been.

In Matthew 17: 5, Mark 9: 7, and Luke 9: 35 – during the Transfiguration – the words "Listen to him!" are added.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

16 - We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty.

Matthew was an eyewitness of most of the ministry of Jesus, but he was not present at the Transfiguration. An early church writing says that Mark got his information from Peter, who, along with John, was present. Luke begins his gospel by saying – "Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided after investigating everything carefully from the very first to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus (Luke 1: 1-3).

17-18 - He received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

19-21 - So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. First of all you must understand that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

What does it mean for the Scriptures to be inspired? It does not mean that the Holy Spirit eliminated the individual styles and emphases of the different authors, made Paul write shorter sentences, or resolved such differences as the order of the temptations of Jesus, who first arrived at the tomb on Easter Sunday morning, and whether it was dawn or still dark.

I think the best definition of the inspiration of Scripture can be found in 2 Timothy 3: 15-17 – They are able to instruct us for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus They are useful for teaching (they tell us what is true), for reproof, for correction (they show us where we have gone and done wrong and how we can go and do right), and for training in righteousness (they enable us to live in right relationship with God and each other) So that we may be equipped for every good work

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

*Where do we see ourselves in the story of the Transfiguration of our Lord?
How would we have responded if we had been there?*

1-3 – Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

1. Do we find ourselves wanting to maintain the status quo?

4 - Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here."

2. Do we place an over emphasis on buildings?

4 – "If you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

3. Do we ever speak when we should listen and/or be silent?

Mark 9: 6 – He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Luke 9: 33 – Not knowing what he said.

4. Do we ever let fear keep us from experiencing the glory and presence of God?

Matthew 17: 5-7 - While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."

5. Do we keep our focus on Jesus?

8 - And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

6. Do we keep silent even when we have experienced the glory of Jesus?

Luke 9: 36 – And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

7. Do we focus on the mountain top experience while neglecting the needs of people in the valley?

Matthew 17: 14-15 – When they came to the crowd, a man came to him, knelt before him and said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; he often falls into the fire and often into the water."

8. Do we know, and are we able to respond to, the needs of the world?

16 – "I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him."

19-20 – The disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith."