

Sunday, March 2, 2025 – The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Our First and Second Readings can be confusing and difficult to interpret.

Some people interpret 2 Corinthians 3: 13 as saying that Moses put on a veil so that people would not see his spirituality, fervor, and "holy glow" fading - Moses put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside.

I think a better interpretation is as follows –

In Exodus 34 Moses wore a veil over his face because the people were frightened because of the demands of the law, the seriousness of their recent sin (the incident of the golden calf is in chapter 32), and Moses' reflecting the glory of God.

When have the demands of the law, the seriousness of your sin, and/or the glory of God been frightening for you?

First Reading: Exodus 34:29-35

29-35 - As (Moses) came down from (Mount Sinai) with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see that the skin of his face was shining.

In 2 Corinthians 3-4 the veil represents whatever blinds us spiritually and keeps us from seeing the glory and reality and truth about Jesus.

Has anything ever spiritually blinded you and kept you from seeing the glory and reality and truth about Jesus?

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

3: 14-16 - Their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.

3: 17 - Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Where and how have you experienced freedom in the presence of the Spirit of the Lord?

3: 18 - And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

How has seeing the glory of the Lord led to your being transformed into the image of the Lord?

4: 1 - Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.

How has receiving God's mercy enabled you not to lose heart as you are engaged in ministry?

Gospel: Luke 9:28-43a

9: 28-31 – Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

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

Luke 9: 33 – Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here."

2. Do we place an over emphasis on buildings?

Luke 9: 33 – "Let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

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

Luke 9: 33 – Not knowing what he said. / Mark 9: 6 – He did not know what to say.

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

Matthew 17: 6-7 – When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them.

Luke 9: 34 – A cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.

5. Do we keep our focus on Jesus?

Luke 9: 36 – When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.

Mark 9: 8 – When they looked around, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

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?

Luke 9: 37 – On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain.

8. Do we know, and do we know how to respond to, the needs of the world?

Luke 9: 38-40 - A man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not."

9: 43a - And all were astounded at the greatness of God.