

What happened to Jesus and the disciples
When they climbed the mountain
where the Transfiguration happened?

That trip up the mountain was
a brief pause in the midst of a busy life,
a wake up call to examine
what's really important here and now
And to live there.

Some call such times a mid-life crisis.
It can make us do crazy things –
this searching and seeking.

We get a new job,
a new car,
a new relationship.

Maybe we take up a new hobby,
go on a trip,
Remodel the house,
or work extra hours.

But, when we make these changes
It's often not really
about the circumstances of our life.

A job. A partner. A car. A career.

It's about us.

This restlessness,
this desire for something more,
generally means that we may have been living life
at the shallow end of the pool.

We've been skimming across the surface.
We fail to see and experience
that the world is already transfigured
and creation is already filled with the divine light.

We don't need to see new things.
We need to see the same old things
with new eyes.

We don't need to hear a different voice.
We need to hear the same voice
with different ears.

We don't need to escape the circumstances of our life.
We need to be more fully present
to those circumstances.

We want God to show up,
be present,
We want a God who does something.

This is the God described in Mark's gospel
up to the point of today's reading.
It is the journey of discovering God
within the circumstances.

This is what the disciples have been busy doing
Up to this point.

They have seen Jesus cast out demons,
heal Peter's mother in law,
and cure the sick of Capernaum.

He's cleansed the leper
and made a withered hand new and strong.
Paralytics now walk,
the blind see, and thousands are fed.

This is the God about whom people like to talk,
the God who gets "likes" and "shares" on Facebook.

At some point we are called however,
to begin slow down a little bit,
to come apart for a time

and discover the God who is
beyond the circumstances.

This is the God who is.
This is the second part of the spiritual journey.

Jesus is leading Peter, James and John,
up the mountain to discover the God who is beyond circumstances.

There on the mountain
they saw Jesus “transfigured before them,
and his clothes became dazzling white,
such as no one on earth could bleach them.”

The cloud overshadowed them
and the Father’s voice spoke of his beloved son.

On the Mount of Transfiguration we step into a new world,
a new way of seeing,
a new way of hearing,
and above all a new way of being.

That’s what happened for Peter, James, and John.
Jesus did not suddenly light up
and become something he was not.

No, their eyes were healed and opened
so they could see Jesus as he had always been.

Their ears were opened
and they heard the voice
that has never ceased speaking from the beginning.

The transfiguration is as much about them as it is about Jesus.

Our circumstances haven’t changed.
But WE OURSELVES have changed
and that seems to change everything.

Those transfigured moments are all around.

Every one of us could tell a story
about stepping back from the picture of our life,
seeing with new eyes,
listening with different ears,
and discovering a window
that opened into another world
and another way of being.

Maybe it was the day you revealed to another person
the secret you had carried for years.
Telling the secret the picture of your life
as one of guilt and shame
became an open window through which you stepped.

The darkness gave way to light, the chains fell off,
and forgiveness overcame sin.
That has happened to me more than once-
a chance encounter with someone sitting at a bar,
a conversation on a bus.

Such Transfigured moments change us,
sustain us, prepare us, encourage us,
and guide us into the future regardless of the circumstances we face.

They show us who we are.
We are the transfigured people of God.

That is the journey we are called to begin this Wednesday-
Ash Wednesday.

Our Lenten Theme will be welcome to the quiet.

During this quiet
We will meet God on the mountain
While we also meet God in each other.

Open our eyes and see a transfigured world.
Open our ears and hear the transfiguring voice.
Open our heart and experience this transfigured life.
Amen.