

Reflection on the Second Sunday of Lent

*"How will we engage with others around the questions and struggles of our time?"
(Chapter Statement 2006).*

The Gospel reading of the second Sunday of Lent raised similar questions for the disciples. The reading of the Transfiguration comes just after Peter's confession about who he thinks Jesus is. He sees Jesus as the Messiah but he does not fully understand what this means in practice and for his life. There are the rumors that Jesus will be put to death. The disciples are sad and frustrated. They are wondering where God is and who God is now. It is in this context that Jesus takes Peter, James and John and they go up the mountain, a place for an important revelation. They are witnesses to a revelation where Jesus is transformed. The moment is filled with light and it gives consolation, so much so that Peter wants to stay. (Mark 9: 5).



When the cloud appeared they could hear but they could not see what was happening. This reminds us of many moments in the first testament where the voice of God is heard by those who have ears to hear it but God is not seen. The voice recalls Jesus' baptism. The disciples find it hard to understand why Jesus would assume suffering. But Jesus is there to console them, to help them to see that they cannot stop the course of history. While the reality will not change they can change their disposition. They can be faithful to what God wants, not what the society was imposing. Jesus' life was in danger because of how he challenged the

society of that time. Those who wanted him out of the way were already planning how to do that. The disciples were aware of this. They are of course confused and were questioning who and where is God in all of this.

Many a time in the light of difficulties which we see around our world today we too can question where God is, who God is. Likewise in the first reading, which is not an easy one to understand, we see Abraham, a man of enormous faith demonstrating how he trusts in God no matter what. As we reflect on these readings in the light of the Resurrection we realize that God is with us (Romans 8:31) and therefore we need not be afraid. The hope of the Resurrection is the manifestation of God's love which is freely given.

Lent, in the light of the Resurrection, should motivate us to create moments of hope. Gustavo Gutiérrez, a Peruvian theologian, often says: *"Hope does not come in a parachute"*. There are many challenges facing us in our world today. Living in the most unequal continent here in Latin America one is constantly challenged to hear the voice of God from the stand point of the poor. We are challenged to believe in a God of Life who wants life for each and every human being regardless of race, creed or nationality. We are asked to give witness to this God and to help others to seek the affirmation of life in the midst of many injustices. As we continue to "engage with others around the challenges and struggles of our time" let us remember that there will always be challenges and struggles in our lives. There are always prophetic voices discerning what God wants and who will challenge us to follow that. Like Catherine Mc Auley let us continue to listen to that Prophetic Voice and be Creators of Hope and Life in our world today.

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