

# Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Transfiguration of Our Lord – February 14, 2021

*“Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice,  
‘This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!’” – Mark 9:7*

A lot can happen in a week – or even less. Six days ago, in this text, Jesus asked his disciples a question that would change everything, “Who do you say that I am?” Without hesitation, Peter replies, “You are the Messiah.” Jews believed the Messiah would be a warrior king who would defeat Israel’s enemies and restore the promised land to the people of God.

Peter had plans for Jesus, which is why it must have been quite a blow when Jesus told him he was wrong. Not the Messiah part, but about what KIND of Messiah he would be. “The Son of Man must suffer and be rejected, and killed, and after three days, rise.” Peter only heard the first three, suffering, rejection, death. So much for high hopes and big plans.

It’s now six days after everything fell apart. Maybe Jesus sensed that Peter was ready to bail out. Maybe Jesus just loved him so much that he felt it was time to show him. All we know is that Jesus took him, along with James and John, up a mountain to get away and figure things out. And something happened up there. Jesus changed. There was a radiance about him that lit up the landscape of their hearts. And the only word to describe it was GLORY.

Peter tries to speak, but before he can form words, that’s when he hears God’s voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved, Listen to Him!” “Listen to Him.” These words can speak to us as surely as they spoke to the disciples on the mountain. “Listen to Him” When the world seems to make no sense, seems crazy or disjointed, we need more than ever to simply stop and be still and try to hear what God is saying in the midst of it all. It starts by asking, and then gathering others to ask alongside you, and then listen; through the word, through the church, and through others, as he speaks. To know how God speaks through his word, look at Jesus. Look at what he says and does. Look to those he gave attention to and reached out to help. In doing so, we’ll get a clearer understanding of what God intends for us.

We gather today because we too, need to get to a place where we can see above the momentary afflictions, to a greater perspective. We gather today because we too, need God’s touch and his word. We too, need for God to speak to us. “Listen to Him!”

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