

AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

Genesis 22: 1-18. Mark 9:2-10

Six days had passed since Jesus had openly talked to his disciples about his impending arrest, his suffering at the hands of the authorities, and his death by crucifixion.

They could not comprehend this kind of talk. What kind of Messiah was their Teacher? How was he going to bring about the new Kingdom, and still talk about his own death? (Mark 8: 31-33)

As they approached a mountain, Jesus invited Peter, James and John, and led them up the mountain apart, by themselves, to pray as he usually did.

There, on the mountain, in front of their own very eyes, was their Teacher, Jesus, standing in Divine light and glory: his appearance was transfigured, his clothes became dazzling white. Moses and Elijah were speaking with him, and a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice was heard from the cloud that said: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him" (Mark 9:7).

This experience should have been enough to remove any doubts and fears, and answer any questions they had about Jesus' identity and real mission.

Jesus knew that the faith of his disciples would suffer a tremendous test during his passion and execution, despite the promise of resurrection.

The transfiguration of his Person was meant to show that, besides being a true Man, he was also true GOD! The memory of this experience was meant to help the disciples remain firm in their faith and to keep them strong during Jesus' passion.

Even the voice of the Father which they heard was meant for them: "This man you have been following is truly my Son, the Beloved. Trust him, believe in him in what he says to you; listen to his words and live by them. Believe that what he promises, will come to pass..."

Today's Reading, from Genesis 22:1-18, tells us about the faith of Abraham in God's promises, even after God tested him and asked him to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice. Abraham's faith was rewarded.

There are times when our faith is also tested like Abraham or like Jesus' disciples. We too, may have questions, doubts, fears, especially when we are faced by financial difficulties, family problems, difficult relationships, problems with children or elderly parents, lengthy illness, death, or by... pandemic.

We should then find consolation in knowing that Jesus is not only GOD but also MAN, who, in solidarity with all human beings, experienced hardships, and underwent all aspects of human suffering and death, so that we may not feel alone in our trials, but feel him standing by, very close to us. The promise of Resurrection and new life is also for us. **PROBLEMS, SUFFERING, ILLNESSES AND EVEN DEATH ARE TEMPORARY.**

Like the disciples, let us kneel in adoration, on the mountain with Jesus, as the Father speaks to us: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Trust Him".

MAY THIS BE AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE OF GOD'S LOVE!