



LIVING THE LITURGY: COMING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN

Peter, James, and John had an incredible experience! Climbing a great height with the Lord Jesus, they witness him completely changed, transfigured. They see him in intense prayer, intense union with God. They also see two great, historical figures. Jesus is conversing with Moses and Elijah! Moses, the Giver of the Law, and Elijah, the greatest of the Jewish Prophets. Jesus, speaking with them, now shines forth as the fulfillment of both, the Law and the Prophets.

Peter especially is so entranced and mesmerized by this experience that he wants to encamp there, resting and basking in the indescribable beauty of this scene. That is understandable: most of us would not be able to go back to ordinary lives after such an ecstatic experience. It would be impossible to describe fully these things to one who wasn't there. And yet, the vision ceases. Jesus is found alone. They must come down the mountain and resume daily living.

There is this difference, however. The voice from the cloud told them, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him," (Lk 9:35). We are invited to listen to the words of the Son, the Word of God, and let those words be our guide in daily life. As Jesus challenges us to love without limit, to forgive, to share with the needy among us, and to care for one another, then we have a roadmap for what to do each day, even though it may not be easy to follow.

Have your Lenten penances help you to be more attentive to the needs of other people?

What Biblical passages have given you help and encouragement in difficult times?