

Annunciation Parish - Scripture Study 2/23/21

—Greeting and Opening Prayer

Any thoughts or questions from scripture passages you have read?

- Other faith questions?

READINGS:

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

PS 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 (I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living)

Rom 8:31b-34

Mk 9:2-10

GOSPEL:

- Transfiguration. What does the transfiguration make you think of?
 - Dazzling white clothes, more clean than is possible to get on earth. What do you make of that?
- What do Elijah and Moses represent, why is Jesus speaking (in dialogue) with them?
- The attention of Peter is taken to the event, he tries to moralize it and make it stable.
- Why do you think they were terrified? What does the being terrified cause them to do?
- The voice from the cloud. We know the source of the voice, see connection with the Baptism of Jesus.
- Then the thing that they wanted to keep alive suddenly disappears.
 - They have to go back down the mountain. There is time to pass before the fulfillment of what they saw. How does Jesus provide the stability of the experience that they seek? How does He build a tent? (see connection between the booth/tent and the tabernacle)
- The Messianic secret again - Jesus tells them to keep it to themselves.

FIRST READING:

- Abraham is tested by the request of sacrifice of his son. In his mind reasonable given the myths of the time.
 - Seems nonsensical for God to ask this, as it would destroy the path to fulfillment of the covenant. But God always planned a saving event.
 - God will elsewhere condemn this practice
- Abraham is totally faithful. Why would he do it given the need for Isaac to be alive?
- God stops the killing - and provides an animal in place of Isaac - to “redeem” Isaac.
 - A model of what God will do ... how? The sacrifice which is needed is transferred to another.
- Abraham’s fidelity is rewarded. What does this say about following the plan of God when it seems to be not what we think it should be?

SECOND READING:

- If God is so committed to give His only son, what do we think God will withhold from us?
- We worry a lot about how others judge us - but it is God who quits and condemns.
- The one who provides for us and the one who died for us is to be trusted and relied upon. What does this speak to you?

—Closing Prayer