

## **Glory is Energy**

2nd Sunday of Lent (Year C)

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A temptation for all of us is to just go through the motions in life. We do everything right and people think well of us, but in reality our inner lives become flat. Sooner or later, we may notice an emptiness within, a lack of motivation, or even an uncertainty of what our actual intentions are. Before long, we may find ourselves totally lost.

Jesus was possibly one of the most motivated people to ever live. Every day was a new day with new opportunities. His interactions were intentional, his conversations were meaningful, his message was thoughtful, and he knew where he was going. He could do all these things and do them well. How? What motivated him? What kept him from burn out? The secret...he was always aware of glory. Glory is energy!

Throughout his entire life, Jesus experienced the greatness, beauty, and brilliance of God. The brightness of the glory of God enlightened his mind and heart. Where we saw the ordinary and commonplace, he saw the radiance of divine presence in everything. Traditional scholastic theology explained this by saying that Jesus had beatific knowledge while on earth, a form of knowledge which comes from seeing the beatific vision. In other words, Jesus saw heaven at every moment while he was on earth. Whether or not this is an overstatement, the point is that the glory of God was always before him. That was his energy source, a source which motivated him to be the best person he could possibly be.

In today's Gospel, Jesus showed Peter, James, and John a glimpse of that glory that he was always experiencing. It is the transfiguration

account. As *Luke* tells us, “[Jesus’] face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.” “They saw his glory.” Being meek and humble, however, the revelation was only momentary. Jesus hid it once again, even though Peter wanted the experience to continue. “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us build three tents...”

While none of us has beatific knowledge yet, we do get glimpses of the glory of God from time to time. It is important for us to remember these moments of glory. There is way too much negativity and bad news in the world today to weigh us down. These moments of glory are so special because they change us for the better. They don’t usually last very long, but they are profound- being one with the beauty of creation, entering into the depths of a bittersweet drama, holding a newborn baby, discovering a gift we are really good at. These momentary glimpses energize us beyond just going through the motions. They allow us to set higher ideals and dream bigger dreams.

*Experiencing the glory of God gives us the energy to strive for more.*

What is the more in life that I need to strive after?

Lent is a time of sacrifice and ‘giving something up.’ We do need to cut back on a lot of things, especially our temptations. But Lent should also be a time for more. Let us set our sights on that more, being energized by the glory of God that awaits us at the finish line of the beatific vision, and yes, breaks into our lives from time to time even now.