

If you will, imagine you are driving, and turn on the car radio. In hoping to find the most appealing station you tune into several of them on AM and FM. You are likely to hear many voices: the voice of a recording artists, such as Beyonce or Katie Perry' someone broadcasting the daily news, an announcer calling the play by play of a baseball or football game, a talk radio host commenting on the political issues of the day or a celebrity plugging a product, such as Budweiser beer or Dr. Pepper soda pop. In the course of a day, we listen to many voices. So it might be helpful to list in our minds all the people we listen to on a daily basis

As Christians, we must listen to a higher voice, the voice of God. In the account of Our Lord's Transfiguration in Saint Matthew's gospel, the three disciples of Jesus, Peter, James and John, hear the voice of God. It is a mystical experience unlike any other. The voice of God confirms Peter's confession of faith that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God. "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased". What follows next is a divine command to listen to Jesus. In biblical Hebrew, to listen to someone sometimes means both to hear and to do what is said. Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount concludes with the words, "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them" . These words echo words from the Torah. In the Book of Deuteronomy, the fifth book of the Old Testament, we read, "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among your kinsmen, and put my words into the mouth of the prophet; the prophet shall tell them all that I command. Anyone who will not listen to my words which the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will hold him accountable for it" (Deut. 18: 17-18). If we refuse to listen to higher voice and only listen to our own voices, we stand to lose the much needed wisdom afforded us by God himself.

Embracing the words of Jesus is not without its challenges. They must deny themselves and take up their crosses .The disciples must listen to Jesus' prediction of his passion, which Peter did not want to hear.

In St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, there is an unusual painting by the renaissance master, Raphael, of two episodes on one canvas in the life of Christ: the Transfiguration and the healing of a boy who likely suffered from epilepsy. In Matthew's gospel, the second episode follows the first. On the top of the painting the apostles have a brief preview of Christ in glory. Depicted on the lower half of the painting is a scene of human affliction, worry and great distress. Eventually, the disciples descended the mountain, and would soon make their way to the Holy city of Jerusalem, the site of Our Lord's condemnation.

Newspapers, television and the internet occupy more of our attention than the words of the Son of God. During the season of Lent, let us focus on the word of God. We would profit greatly by reading the scriptures, especially the four gospels. To quote St. John of the Cross, a 16th century Carmelite priest and doctor of the Church, "For in him (Christ) I (the Eternal Father) have spoken and revealed all, and you will find in him more than you desire or ask".

In the city of Albany, which is the place of my birth and rearing, there is a remarkable sight on the top of a building on lower Broadway: the RCA dog, Nipper. Perhaps you recall the slogan "His Master's Voice". Jesus could very well have adopted that same slogan in referring to his heavenly Father.

On Transfiguration Sunday the reading of the day in the daily Liturgy of the Hours is taken from a sermon of saint Leo the Great, one of the Church's most illustrious popes. His words are worth

mentioning. “When it comes to obeying he commandments or enduring adversity, the words uttered by the Father should always echo in our ears: “This is my Son, the beloved, in whom I am well pleased; listen to him”.