

Lenten Reflections for EOHSJ

Second Sunday of Lent 2019



Reflection by Rev. Stephen Porter, KCHS

Gospel Reading: Luke 9:28b-36 The Transfiguration

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.

And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.

Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus,

"Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But he did not know what he was saying.

While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud.

Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

Well, let's start with a couple of questions... how long have you been a member of the Order? How has this changed your life?

When we were gifted with the invitation to become a Knight or a Lady of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre – the oldest equestrian order extant in the world, way older than all those British Orders of the Bath and whatnot! – we made a commitment to change our lives; if we were not already living a chivalrous life then to embark upon a plan to do so. We committed to the pilgrimage to the land of Jesus' birth, life, and death. We committed to be active Knights and Ladies – ready to defend the poor, the homeless, the hungry, and the sick, like so many of our saintly predecessors. And we committed to support our Christian sisters and brothers in the Land.

Such commitments – none of them easy – must lead to an evaluation of life and a desire to change. We women and men of the 21st century must endeavour to understand what it means to be a true Knight and Lady – sensitive, caring, compassionate, considerate, empathetic, listening well to others, emotionally, but quietly, strong in faith and character. We, Knights and Ladies, if we adopt a true "knightly" lifestyle, will find ourselves transfigured in this age of electronic vassals to radiant images of our God, a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of God's people.

The Gospel this weekend is – on the surface – Jesus' Transfiguration, but in reality it is the beginning of Peter, James, and John's transfiguration from disciples into apostles, from students and learners, to shakers and movers – leaders in the Kingdom of God. As Knights and Ladies we try to emulate the Transfiguration of Jesus by constantly reforming and reshaping our lives, knowing always that it is God who does the work. All we need do is pray and wait at the gloriously empty tomb that we respond to the Spirit and allow God to do His work.

Blessings.

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