

HOMILY FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C

1. Meteor in Russia
 - a. YouTube video: bright streak of light; brighter than sun
 - b. Wonder what must have been like to see this and feel the blast of the explosion
 - c. Experiences described in Gospel and First reading have been even more frightening
2. Abram has just been made a promise by God
 - a. He, an old man, childless will have descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky
 - b. He is going to possess an new land
 - c. As a sign of God's promise, he is to split several animals and guard them from wild animals and birds of prey
 - d. Night approaches with a terrible darkness
 - e. in midst of terrifying darkness, there appear a smoking pot and a flaming torch
 - f. pass through the split animals
 - g. sign to Abram of the covenant that God makes with Abram
3. Luke sets scene: Jesus often goes up the mountains to pray
 - a. Invites Peter, James and John
 - b. Apparently they get drowsy and fall asleep while Jesus is praying
 - c. Suddenly they wake up to see Jesus face being changed and clothes dazzlingly white
 - d. Jesus is talking with Moses and Elijah
 - i. Moses: led Israel out of slavery and gave the covenant that made Israel a nation
 - ii. Elijah: prophet never died, believed he would come just before the Messiah
 - iii. Not just heroes but omens of major change about to happen
 - e. Then a frightening cloud envelops them, they hear a voice in the cloud
 - i. This is my Beloved Son, listen to him
4. In both of these events God takes the initiative
 - a. He reveals to certain persons in very frightening ways that He has chosen them
 - b. He is making a promise that He is going to change their lives
 - c. He makes these promises by powerful signs
5. Question we might have is what difference does this make today
 - a. How does it affect my life that Abram or Peter, James and John had powerful experiences
 - b. Ultimately it seems what is most important in our life
 - c. St. Paul suggests that humanity ultimately divides itself into two groups
 - i. One group is concerned only with earthly things
 - ii. Their god is their stomach, glory is in their shame
 - d. Other group are those who have their citizenship in heaven, St. Paul hoping this is us
 - i. We can look forward to our earthly bodies becoming glorified
 - ii. We look for the resurrection
 - iii. We find hope and meaning in the person of Jesus
6. For most of us, I suspect we are kind of in the middle
 - a. We do not want to be totally focused on just our immediate pleasures and tasks
 - b. We really want to be glorified and discover the excitement of being with Jesus, to discover the wonders of Creation
 - c. For a lot of us we are like Peter, James and John asleep and not even seeing the glory and wonder of Jesus
7. Do we need to have the experience of a meteor almost hitting us to realize what God is giving us
 - a. It is just too easy become overly familiar with the rituals of faith, to really recognize what is around us
 - b. The God of the universe is speaking to us each week in the Scriptures
 - i. Every word He says is pointing to Jesus who sacrificed everything for us
 - ii. He even overcame death, offering us life with Him
 - c. In the Eucharistic prayer and In communion God sends His Holy Spirit on us
 - d. We are brought into the mystery of our own resurrection
 - e. Although we cannot see it with our human eyes, we are being brought into the very presence of our God
 - f. God is revealing Himself to us as our light and our salvation
8. This is not easy to see, it is hard to let ourselves go and open our imagination to the wonders around us
 - a. might even be frightening to really open ourselves to see the wonders around us
 - b. God is inviting us to wake up, to believe He is here holding us up in our struggles
 - c. He is offering us a glorious life to the degree we are willing to open ourselves to His glory.