

Homily for the Second Sunday of Lent Year A

Fr. Anthony de Mello, SJ in his book, *Song of the Birds*, wrote about a wise man who once reflected about himself.

The wise man said, “**I was a revolutionary when I was young and all my prayer to God was, ‘Lord, give me energy to change the world.’**”

“**As I approached middle age and realized that half of my life has gone without changing a single soul, I changed my prayer to, ‘Lord, give me the grace to change all those who come in contact with me. Just my family and friends and I shall be satisfied.’**”

“**Now that I am an old man and my days are numbered, I have begun to see how foolish I have been. My one prayer now is: ‘Lord, give me the grace to change myself.’ If I had prayed for this right from the start, I should not have wasted my life.**”

The wise man discovered that real transformation starts within, just as the Transfiguration reveals Jesus’ inner divine glory.

The common theme of today’s readings is *transformation*. In the first reading, the Book of Genesis describes the call of Abraham, father of Faith. Abraham was asked by God to leave his home, his clan and his country to a land that God would show him. Abraham trusted in the promises of God and obeyed Him. Because of his obedience, *God blessed Abraham and hence he became a blessing to the whole world and became father of a nation. God tells him to start a new life at the age of 75 and changes his name into Abraham.*

In the gospel we have a wonderful description of Transfiguration of Jesus on *Mount Tabor*. The Transfiguration of Jesus is a glorious event in the life of Jesus. The disciples received a preview of the glorious figure Jesus. *Jesus was transfigured on the mountain top before his beloved disciples. There the disciples get a glimpse of the heavenly glory of Jesus the Son of God.* This mystical experience is full of symbols.

The *holy mountain* recalls the Mount Sinai where God revealed Himself to Moses. For example, Moses had met the Lord in the burning bush at Mount Horeb (Exodus 3:1-4). After his later encounter with God, Moses’ face shone so brightly that it frightened the people. The dazzling face of Jesus suggests the face of Moses after his meeting with Yahweh.

The *appearance of Moses and Elijah* symbolizes the fulfillment of the Law and Prophets in the person of Jesus. In other words, Moses and Elijah representing the Law and the Prophets testified by their presence that Jesus was from above and He was the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets.

Finally, the affirmation from the Father, *'This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased, listen to him'* is for the disciples to trust in Jesus and his Mission.

The transfiguration experience strengthened the faith of disciples, so that they are able to face difficulties and hardships in the near future. They had to travel from Mount Tabor to Mount Calvary.

This Transfiguration of Jesus encourages us not to lose hope during difficulties. Just as the disciples saw Jesus in glory, we too are called to share in His glory if we remain faithful. May God bless all of us. Amen.