

The life of Jesus is full of moments of "solitude." Jesus goes "apart" to pray. He goes to "lonely" places to instruct his disciples and reveal the messages of the parables because they need it more than anyone, for they will continue to proclaim the Kingdom of God, the Good News. The disciples saw how Jesus prayed and asked Him to teach them. They saw Jesus's intimate relationship with His Father and wanted the same experience.

Jesus hold in his heart the needs of the people who were like sheep without a shepherd, His Father's will, and the salvation of all nations. He went to lonely places to pray and be instructed by His Father. He did it to be able to contemplate what he carried in his heart and consider how to act, how to approach the challenges, how to teach his disciples, how to denounce sin, and how to bring hope. All of these are always with His Father's help.

Today, Jesus takes three of his disciples to a lonely place to teach them without interruptions. He wants to prepare his disciples for the challenges they will experience for being His followers. Also, Jesus needs time before facing difficulties on his way to Jerusalem, where He will die on the cross.

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a mountain alone. They did not know what to expect or why only the three had to go with Him. They had to walk all day, or maybe two days, to reach the mountain's top. Their way took a lot of work. They faced physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual challenges. It was hot during the day and cold in the evening. They stumbled on the rocks, time after time. Maybe, they got a stick to help themselves to walk but kept falling. Then, they decided to hold the hand of Jesus but kept failing. There was no problem because physical contact with Jesus gave them security. Jesus did not give up on them. They held the hand of the one who could help them through bad moments. I think they threw the stick away at some point. It was better the hand of Jesus. It was better to get up after falling looking at the eyes of Jesus and not at what made them lose their balance.

On that high mountain, far from people, in a moment of tranquility, filled with that serenity that the mountain produces, Jesus opened his heart to his disciples, and they could contemplate the depth of God's love that was made present to them in the same Jesus. It was the most profound reality of his heart, full of the Father's love, of whom he knew he was a Beloved Son.

The **vision** they experience comes only after a challenging climb. Brothers and sisters, in our lives, suffering and difficulties can bring a new vision and a more profound understanding of our lives. When we look up and seek God while experiencing dark moments, we can feel Jesus walking next to us, reaching to us to help us to go through those critical moments. We can reach his hand, and He will help us reach the top of the mountain.

At the top, we can experience a vision, but to get us there, the Lord often makes us climb up the tough side of the mountain. The easy ways provide little effort and do not make us grow. Although we like an easy and pleasant life, our climb could be dangerous.

While Jesus prayed, "his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And Moses and Elijah appeared in glory, speaking of the Exodus that Jesus would accomplish in Jerusalem. Moses represents the Law, and Elijah represents the Old Testament prophets.

The message of the three of them conversing is that we know God through Sacred Scriptures. As we grow in the knowledge of Scripture, our vision expands, our understanding deepens, and we see things differently. Immersion in the Scriptures prepares our souls for heavenly visions. In the Transfiguration, the vision is of a new Exodus. Moses led the ancient people out of slavery in Egypt by the Blood of the Lamb at Passover. Now, Jesus leads God's people out of slavery and sin by his death as the Lamb of God.

Scriptures give meaning to our life. It is our story and shows again and again that God can make a way out of no way, that He can do anything but fail. Do you want to see the heavens open and the glory of God be revealed? Then immerse yourself in Holy Scriptures. In our meditations, God clarifies all things.

The vision the disciples experienced comes after a challenging climb.

Why is this experience reserved only for a few chosen witnesses? We cannot know the designs of God. But we can understand that the graces (sometimes unique and extraordinary) that some receive (saints, mystics, doctors of the Church) are not only for their benefit but for the benefit and favor of all.

When and where can we see the glory of God? God reveals Himself in every Sacrament we celebrate, especially in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. When we offer the Perfect Sacrifice to God, Jesus comes down from heaven glorified. He is present on this altar and reveals His glory to us. What a wonderful and blessed moment we live! Jesus is present on the altar to accompany us and feed us with His own Body and Blood. God's gift, Jesus Christ, helps us to see the light when we experience dark moments in our lives and allows us to keep walking on our journey toward holiness.

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." What did he feel in his heart and soul to say what he said? Maybe, he felt the joy and peace he had never felt before and tried to hold onto that joy and peace.

Peter is babbling and suggests building tents to capture the glory. He probably had in mind the Feast of Tents when the Jewish people remembered the great Exodus, their time in the desert, and the giving of the 10 Commandments. It is one of the great festivals of the year. If this is the case, Peter suggests saying, "Master, let's celebrate this! Let's extend the time to a week-long feast!" The religious celebrations of Jewish last seven days. But Peter needs to understand that this is only a glimpse of what is expected in heaven. Also, Jesus has to climb another mountain with rejection, misunderstandings, mockery, and carrying the cross. The mountain is Golgotha. Jesus is preparing his disciples for that moment.

Is being before the Holy Eucharist or participating in the celebration of the Holy Eucharistic a privilege? Our participation in this Sacrament prepares us to climb our mountain with Jesus and walk thru valleys to be purified. Let us pray that our participation in the Holy Eucharist may

sustain us in difficult times, as the experience of the Transfiguration must have sustained the disciples in Jesus' passion.

While Peter was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and a voice from the cloud came saying: "This is my Beloved Son with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." These words are just, precise, and sufficient to express the true identity of Jesus. Listening to Jesus is easy to say and not so easy to do, but really important. God's command, "Listen to Him," not only completes the vision on the mountain but also ensures a more excellent vision in the future, the Resurrection of the Lord.

This vision has been outstanding for the disciples, but God has more than bright lights to show them. God's vision directs the disciples and brings light to the disciple's path. God's guidance is clear: Listen to my Son. In the Old Testament, God's people listened to the prophets and followed the Law; now, we must listen to Jesus.

If we obey Jesus Christ, we will see more extraordinary things. If we faithfully follow Him, He will lead us to the light, and we will see all things as Jesus sees them. But remember, where Jesus leads you can be challenging. But do not be afraid; with God's help, you can climb your mountain. Following Jesus Christ is to follow Him to Jerusalem to die with Him. He is taking us on the path to purify our souls to die with Jesus on the top of the Mountain of Golgotha.

Do you want to see the glory of God? Well, start making moments of "solitude". Go "apart" and pray. Stay with Jesus. Pray to Jesus. Pray with Jesus. Do you want to see the glory of God? Do what the disciples did. They answered Jesus' call "follow me" without questioning anything. They learned as students. They knew they had to learn and listen to Jesus' teachings and let their lives be transformed. Do you want to see the glory of God? Then be willing to do the climb with Jesus. He will give you a new vision if you climb with him and meditate on the Sacred Scriptures. More extraordinary things are ahead of you that no one can provide you but God. It is eternal life.

Do you want to see the glory of God? Well, you are in the right place, here at the celebration of the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Blessings.