

August 6, 2017- The Transfiguration of the Lord – Cycle A

Good morning! How are you? We are blessed!

Today is the feast of the Transfiguration. And as we focus on the Transfiguration, you know when I was on sabbatical, I had the honor of going to the Holy Land and going up the Mountain of the Transfiguration and it is a beautiful place, and it was there that Jesus went and He met with Moses and Elisha to show that He was the fulfillment of the Old and New Testament. The fulfillment of the law and the prophets and as He was doing this, the Father's voice is heard and He gives us the command, He said "this is my beloved son; this is my Son with whom I am pleased." Then what does He say? "Listen to Him." Very good, this week, listen to Him and so that's a command of God that we are called to listen to Jesus. Huh? I believe though how often we listen to everything except for Jesus. It happens, you know, we listen to the radio, we listen to the television set, we listen to the newspaper, we listen to the people, to our friends, the opinion of our friends, we listen to more than anybody else, ourselves. We listen to ourselves, our constant voice playing in our mind again and again and again and that's usually who we listen to, we listen to ourselves. Not you, the other people that are listening to this right now, but none of you, I'm sorry, I wouldn't even think about that. But, I know that we become so caught up and what we listen to, is what forms us.

It's what's we become, it's the way we think, it forms the people that we are, and so when God the Father looks at us, and commands us "to listen to Jesus. Listen to Him." That is not an option. We've talked many times about prayer, you know in all the years I've been with you, and I tell you again and again that the most important part of prayer is, listening to God. And yet the still same us, the same people, do the same thing, we say our prayers. We need to have that listening time and so in our prayer, again I want you to just reflect this week, reflect today, hopefully you don't just listen to these homilies and go "it was funny, it was dumb, I didn't like that one" 'cause I know everybody talks about homilies. It is just reality. He was off today, you know Father was just off, or whatever it happens to be. We need to listen and take this in. Do I listen to Jesus more than anybody else? Do I listen to everybody else and every once in a while, listen to Jesus. And so the first place, we find Jesus and listen to Him, of course, is in our prayer. That means, of course we need to have some time for silence. That's the only way to hear anybody is that silence.

You know again, when we pray, we got to shut up. Right? Know shut up. I think if you have a great place where you pray, you should put right there a big sign in front of you that says "shut up". Oh, that's what I am supposed to do when I pray? Yes! I know that's crass. But whatever works, we need to shut up in prayer so we can listen, and again like in every mass, after communion, what do we do every week, I say "Be still and let Jesus hold you and what? Listen to His heart beat and every time His heart beats, He says I love you, I love you, that when you and I are still in our prayer, if we can incorporate that in our daily prayer, please listen to the heartbeat of Jesus and every time His heart beats, He says "I love you", "I love you". That deepest need would be filled; we just talked about this in last couple weeks. The most important place, if you're one of those people that say, "Father, it is hard for me to listen". I get it; I hear it every time I talk about this. Then where can you always listen to God and hear Him every day? The Bible. Thank you Ed. There you go. The Bible. We need to be people who read the scriptures every day. So again the question to you is do you have daily scripture reading?

When the God of the Universe, isn't the Blessed Mother at Fatima, everybody goes crazy right now at Fatima, it's the 100th anniversary, Our Lady says, we must do this, should we? Yes! But when God the Father says something, who is more important, God the Father or the Mother of God? God the Father! So you can do all the stuff that Mary, and I do it, and I listen to her. But when God the Father himself says something, I would listen above everything else. God Father says "Listen to my Son". So we listen to His Son in His word because He is the Word of God. So if you don't have incorporated daily scripture reading, listen to the Father. If you don't do as God the Father says, it's like spitting on Him and saying "hey I don't care, this is what I do". Our Lady says "Say the rosary every day", I'll say the rosary, Our Lady didn't say read the scripture every day, no but the Father did. Listen to my Son. And He gave us His words, so those of you who say, I can't hear God when He says something, I can't hear Him, I am hard with listening. You read His word, you'll always hear Him. You'll always listen to Jesus. People are afraid, I think when it comes to prayer, because God might tell me something I don't want to hear, I get it, but guess what, what's the first thing after God the Father looked at the apostles and says, "Listen to Him" what was the first thing Jesus said to them. "Rise up and don't be afraid."

I think Ed is the only one who pays any attention here, I don't get it. Don't be afraid. So when you and I go to pray, and we listen to Jesus, He says, "Don't be afraid", don't you need to hear that every day, don't you need to know that deep

in your heart. When we go and we pray and we start listening to Jesus instead of just talking to Him, we will hear, "be not afraid", we will hear His heart beat that says "I love you", and we will be transformed. So when transfiguration happens, to show us how we too can be transfigured when we pray and most especially when we listen when we pray. So today, let us begin to let our lives be transfigured by every day listening to Jesus. You got it? Get it? Gonna live it? May each of you know His love today and forever. Amen.