

March 8, 2010

Scripture Reading: Luke 3:21-22 & Luke 9:28-36

When we decide to follow Jesus and enroll in the masterclass on life he teaches, we soon discover that Jesus teaches us how to pray. Luke 11:1 suggests that prayer is both taught and learned. Luke's Gospel suggests that Jesus is a man of prayer and that his disciples will be learning from the master.

The two events described in today's readings are significant events in Jesus' life: his baptism and his transfiguration. Luke tells us that both times, when the heavenly voice affirms his identity, Jesus is praying. (In fact, in Luke's Gospel, when Jesus prays, we know something important is happening.) Not only does Jesus' example teach us that prayer is important, but that significant things happen when we pray.

Jesus' example reminds us that prayer is a two-way conversation. Not only do we speak to God; we also listen to God. It is not easy, because many voices run through our heads, intermingling with the voice of God. And when we listen for God to speak, we must carefully discern whether what we hear is truly God. We ask: is what I'm hearing consistent with Scripture? We check out what we hear with brothers and sisters in faith, asking them to help us discern. We are brutally honest with ourselves, making sure we are not simply hearing what we want to hear. We listen, and then listen some more.

Like Jesus, we may discover that God reminds us who we are. If we listen carefully, we may hear God say, "*I love you!*"

Set aside some quiet time today to pray. Include a time of listening, silently waiting for God's still, small voice. Be patient.