

February 19, 2010

Scripture Reading: Luke 9:28-36

In today's reading, Luke tells us that Jesus took three of his disciples and went up on the mountain to pray, and while he was praying, he was transfigured in their presence. Luke also tells us that Peter, probably speaking for the other disciples too, wants to stay on the mountaintop and soak in the glory around him. Peter says, "Master, it is good for us to be here," but Luke says that he didn't know what he was saying.

Think about your own life and your own spiritual experiences. Have you ever been in a worship service, class, or special event where you experienced the transforming power of God? Have you ever wished you could stay on that mountaintop, making your home in the glory of God's presence, clearly hearing the voice of God?

Like Peter, we have experiences that inspire us to say, "It is good for us to be here." But, also like Peter, we discover that Jesus has a different idea of what is "good." Luke tells us that Jesus descends from the mountaintop to continue his ministry, and that he, "set his face to go to Jerusalem." (Luke 9:51)

This is one of the temptations we face, to substitute our good ideas for God's will. We tell Jesus what we want to do and what we want him to do, instead of following him wherever he goes, trusting that he knows best.

In prayer, ask God to forgive you for the ways you substitute your good ideas for God's will. Pray that you are able to discern the difference between your good ideas and God's will. Ask God for the courage and faith to follow Jesus.