

2019.03.17 Homily by Fr. Gabor

Today's transfiguration story is about where we are heading; it is about perfection in the presence of our heavenly Father; perfection both physically and in the way we love.

Remember Jesus says: 'be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect (Mt 5:48). This means love God and others as perfectly as the Father loves them, ie. without limits. This is the perfection of love: to lay down one's life for his friends (cf. John 15:3). Therefore the crucified Lord Jesus is the glory of the Father's love; the perfect expression of the Father's love.

Notice that during His transfiguration Jesus speaks with Moses and Elijah about his passing, in other words about his death on the cross. I believe it is not just a coincidence that while He is radiating light He is having a conversation about His approaching terrible death. Just think about it; what a strange thing this is; torture on a cross and radiant light being together. However what we see as a shining light is the manifestation of the perfect love of the Father which Jesus will show on the cross. I have seen people who were just radiating love, who almost had like an aura of light around them, because showing God's love is their habit, their whole life. Notice also what Peter says: 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here, so let us make three tents...' Then Luke adds that 'he didn't know what he was saying.' Yes, he didn't know, because he was under the influence of God's intense love, radiating from Jesus' wounded heart. The same Peter who along with James and John 'was heavy with sleep, but they kept awake' is totally changed, as if he came alive by seeing the glory of the Lord and bathing in His radiant love. I am sure he was stunned by seeing such a phenomenon, but the normal reaction to a theophany, God's supernatural self-revelation, or supernatural appearance is FEAR, and yet what Peter says is: 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here.' He was suddenly filled with the warmth of the Father's love through Jesus. Yes, for anybody it is wonderful to be in the presence of people who radiate God's love.

This is what we are aiming at; to be like Jesus, to radiate the Father's love, so that when people look at us they experience the heavenly Father's love (cf. John 12:45), and His love is characterised by life, by dynamism, by the desire to share generously what He has; and wanting the best not only for good ones, but for bad ones as well (cf. Mt 5:45) and it is characterised by mercy and forgiveness. These are the characteristics of God's love that we are also called to develop in us during Lent.

All of us are called to radiate the Father's love, exactly as Jesus did, but for that we need to come alive; by breaking out of our bondages, our handcuffs that are held together by the chains of sin, and ask for the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to put on Christ (cf. Rom 13:14), His positive mentality, His trust in people's capacity to change. We also need to see others as God's children and have the desire to work for their spiritual benefit, just as Jesus and the Father

do. We also have to share generously what we have, our gifts and talents in the service of the church and others. We also have to defend the vulnerable, especially those in their mothers' womb, at least by prayers, just as Jesus does. This is love in action. We also have to be filled with faith, hope and love, just like Jesus. Why? Because we also are the children of the heavenly Father and have also received the gifts of the Holy Spirit who enables us to be like Jesus, so there is no excuse for being passive. Just use the gifts you have received. So let us rise and get out of our apathy, negativity and judgmental mentality and radiate God's love, filled with the Holy Spirit!!!!