

**2nd Sunday of Lent A 2023**  
**Gen. 12.1-4//2 Tim. 1.8-10//Matt.17.1-9**

Change....for some it's not a welcoming word...when you think about it

→in fact, most of us tend to shy away from it....yet change is all around us, affecting us constantly and always

→We have all often heard the expression....“the only thing constant is change”....and how very true that is

→we are constantly in flux....daily the cells of our body, some, if not all, are undergoing change...and this becomes quite evident when, one morning, we look in the mirror and realize that our face has changed with age....

→the seasons of the year change.....and the seasons of our lives change...and it changes even more...as time moves on

→think for just moment of all the changes that have happened in just the past 10 years...  
– with smart phones, tvs, home gadgets – computers – facebook – twitter – and let alone the pandemic

→many of things common today...and were non-existent just 10 years ago.....PAUSE

→[and so] change is necessary for growth....if there is no change...there is no growth

→could it get any simpler????....yet most of us consistently resist any kind of change that might come our way....especially when it upsets our routine or comfort level....even if in our mind...we know it is for the better or needed

→this evening [morning] we heard the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ.....

→and perhaps we might ask what truly is the meaning of this story...what was Christ trying to accomplish by bring his disciples up to the mountain and transfiguring himself.

→I think it's important to understand from the outset...that the Transfiguration didn't happen for the sake of Jesus...but rather it happened for the sake of the apostles.

→Jesus knew that change was coming into the life he shared with the apostles...a monumental change

→he had made them aware numerous times of his impending suffering and death...to which they mightily resisted

“No” they told him in so many words, “this isn't going to happen to you...we won't let it.”

→and so Jesus takes the apostles to the mountain and is transfigured before their eyes...in order to **TRANSFORM** them.

--**THEY** needed a “CHANGE” in perspective in order to accept the hard times coming ahead of them that would impact their lives forever

→prior to seeing Jesus transfigured...their vision was clouded...they didn't completely understand his message or mission...a message and mission that very soon would become their very own

→and so seeing Jesus with Moses and Elijah...helped to clear their vision...not so much physically but from their “heart”

→And when the heart is opened...a person is transformed

→.....and just like the disciples, we too are seeking an open heart, preparing for a great and unforgettable event...a change in our lives as we get ready for Easter... PAUSE

→this Lenten Season is an opportunity for us to strengthen our spiritual muscle, to stretch our endurance...and even experience some uncomfortableness....in an effort to transform our lives

→to look at the way we are living... and gain that inner strength... that desire to change what we don't like about ourselves

→...and to begin living the changes we want to make

PAUSE

→today's message is about change.....

→Jesus takes Peter, James, and John "to a high mountain and is transfigured...so that they, themselves, would also be changed and transformed

→and we are being called to that same type of change and transformation.

→that's why we come here each week....because of our desire to change who we are, **to be** better in this coming week than we were last week....to leave here....with a new attitude, a new strength...a new courage...to face all the challenges that lie ahead of us....and to do so as a changed and transfigured person....renewed and refreshed!

→....our presence here each week....not only during Lent but throughout the year...is our **changeable** moment....our time to work, struggle, and examine our lives, hearts, and souls....in hope of changing for the better.

→the apostles came down from the mountain as different people

→though they would not totally understand Jesus and his mission until after the Resurrection, the memory of the transfiguration saw them through the dark hours of the passion and its aftermath

→it was a critical piece in the puzzle of Jesus' suffering, dying and rising

→quite clearly we are also being called just like the disciples to be transformed

→each one of us has already had our transfiguring moment....a moment in which all became different and new....a moment that changed us forever...

→[it] that moment....happened at the beginning of our lives...when as infants and adults we had water poured forth on us at baptism....at that moment we were transfigured into the children of God...the Body of Christ...the believers of faith...

→and from then on, our challenge in life is to be transformed by our transfiguration

→to live more fully who we are

→to be more completely who we have been called to be...

→to share with others the message of Jesus Christ

→by our baptism, God is relentless in moving us along to embrace, accept and live the many changes life brings to us.

Someone once said:

**→if we always DO...what we have always DONE**

**...we will always GET....what we have always GOT**

**→[but] to GET that which we have never GOTTEN, we have to DO  
that which we have never DONE [repeat]**

→today's gospel challenges us to ask....where do we find God's finger in our lives?

→into what new territory or new experience are we being called to venture?

→what narrow way of living are we being called so that we may have a more abundant  
life?

PAUSE

→IN THE END....

→if this season of Lent is to mean anything

→if it is to have depth and purpose...then something needs to happen to you and me

→a change...a transformation...a transfiguration in our attitudes, our thoughts, our words and  
faith

→and ultimately a change in our heart....

→in the end [you see]...it's about the change Christ is making in you and me...and our  
response to this change

→in this Lent and beyond...may we embrace the change to which God is now calling us....may our path in the wilderness change and lead us to our Easter joy!