

February 21, 2016 Second Sunday of Lent
Lord, help me listen!

Genesis 15:5-12,17-18 Psalm 27: 1, 7-9,13-14 Philippians 3:17-14:1 Luke 9:28-36

In the first reading God speaks to Abram and tells him his descendants will be as numerous as the stars in the sky. Abram, in turn, put his faith in the Lord and is credited with an act of righteousness. A covenant is made with Abram and the Israelites are given certain lands.

The psalmist emphasizes that the Lord is his light, his salvation, his refuge, and his helper. He pleads to be heard and answered and not to be cast off or repelled in anger. He believes in the Lord and waits with firm hope.

In the second reading Paul asks the Philippians to be imitators and follow truthful examples. Those whose ways contradict the cross will end up in disaster because their minds are occupied with worldly things. We belong to heaven and it is Jesus who will change our earthly bodies to conform to his.



In the Gospel Jesus brings Peter, James and John with him to the mountain where his appearance is changed into dazzling light. Elijah and Moses appear with him and the disciples awake from a sleep to see this. As a cloud overshadowed them the disciples grew fearful. Moses and Elijah entered into the cloud and a voice said, "This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him."

**The Father spoke in a clear voice,
This is my Son, my Chosen One.
The Holy Spirit reminds us to listen to him.**

Listen to Him

Our readings remind us that there is more to Christian life than the world understands or offers. The Father clearly commands us to listen to Jesus Christ and cultivate a strong faith in the Lord of Light who now shines more brightly than the sun. When tempted into discouragement and despair, hope in Him, hold firm and take heart. Put your faith in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and you too will be credited, as Abraham was, with an act of righteousness.

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"I will listen for the word of God; surely the LORD will proclaim peace to his people, to the faithful, to those who trust in him.(Psalm 85:9). Blessed is the person who hears the Lord speaking within and receives his words of consolation.

For a word was stealthily brought to me, and my ear caught a whisper of it. (Job4:12); just as Job paid no attention to the loudness of the world you too will be blessed with quiet guidance.

Blessed are the ears that listen to the truth of the Spirit within but pay no attention to outside clamor. Blessed are the eyes that concentrate on seeing within but are closed to worldly allurements. Blessed are they that let go of the transitory and are wholly concerned with the eternal and following his Way.

Keep yourself close to the Lord and you will have peace. Let go of unneeded worldly things and seek the things of eternal value since in this way you will be dear to the Lord and attain true happiness."

(Adapted , Kempis, Book 3, Chapt1)

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