

Listen carefully to the word of the Lord!

Genesis 12-1-4a

Psalm 33:4-5, 18-20, 22

2Timothy 1:8b-10

Matthew 17:1-9.

In the first reading Abram, seventy-five years of age, is given instructions by the Lord to leave his homeland and travel to a new place. Abram's name will be great, his blessings many, and this will be recognized by all. The Lord will bless those who bless Abram and even curse those who curse Abram and for his part Abram obeyed and went on as directed.

The Psalmist writes in the context of covenant love. God is praised for being trustworthy and for loving justice and right. God's promises will be kept and the people can depend upon being delivered from famine and death. The Lord God's protection is as constant as a shield for those who fear him and hope for his kindness.

The second reading explains that commitment to the Gospel entails hardships but God gives the strength to overcome them. God saves and calls us to a holy life not because we merit such but according to his own design. Jesus is the savior who robbed death of its power and brought life and immortality into clarity through the Gospel.

In the Gospel Jesus takes Peter, James, John to a mountain and is transfigured so that his face becomes dazzling and his clothes radiant. Moses and Elijah who represent the Law and the Prophets appear beside him and a voice from an overshadowing cloud is heard, "This is my beloved Son. My favor is with him. Listen to him." The disciples fall with fear and are later told by Jesus not to tell anyone of the vision until after he is resurrected.

There are many voices in this world that call to us from varied perspectives: voices from financial, social, and ambitious circles and yet none of these can bring us true freedom and salvation. It is the voice coming from the Gospel, Jesus' voice, that brings proper direction and light to show us the way. Abraham obeyed the words he heard from the Lord, and he would become a family and then a nation. Elijah and Moses appeared with Jesus at the Transfiguration indicating our Lord is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets

Feeling old?

The Genesis passage tells us that Abram (Abraham) was **75** when set out with Sarah and Lot for the land of Canaan. Abraham was **100** when Isaac was born.

Deuteronomy indicates Moses was **120** at this death.

Verdi was **85** when he wrote "Ave Maria." Goethe was **80** when he finished *Faust*.

Humanity's vitality is something for our culture to rediscover and we have a personal responsibility to take care of ourselves physically and spiritually. We should never think of ourselves as too old to serve God. Are we adequately serving God, church, and community? The names mentioned above were most likely written off as insignificant and useless by many but God has his own plans that cannot be thwarted.

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