

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" —not knowing what he said. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" ³⁶When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

³⁷On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." ⁴¹Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." ⁴²While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.

⁴³And all were astounded at the greatness of God. While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples,

This reflection is being written on a Sunday morning rather than being prepared and sent out on a Saturday; the reason is Anita and I were in Kent for a few days for Anita's brother's funeral. Funerals are times of looking back on a person's life, memories being shared and often information shared about the life being remembered that is not known by all the people present.

As the disciples looked back over their time with Jesus, and spent time talking together in those days after his death I wonder what they would have spoken about. Would they have asked such questions of each other as, "What is your favourite moment of the last 3 years?" or, "What was the most amazing time for you?" "When did you feel most afraid or that you could not carry on?"

If so, I should imagine, for Peter, James and John, this incident would be on the memory list. They would have spoken about it, shared how they felt as they spent these few hours with Jesus, and the sharing of the memory helped to emblazon it on their memories forever. The passage is not just about the high point of seeing Jesus Transfigured, but also, there is the following incident where the disciples could not release a child from suffering.

When you look back upon your faith journey what are the high points when you felt all was good and you felt close to God, felt the presence of Jesus with you? When did you feel as though all was too difficult and you felt a failure as a disciple of Jesus?

Spend a few moments thinking back over the years and see how you have changed, and been changed by God encounters over the years. If at this time you feel far from God what was going on in the times when you felt close to God? Were you behaving differently?

Going through tough times is not to always to be seen as failure on your behalf, God can often teach us lessons in difficult times which we will not learn when all is happiness and joy. Perhaps you might like to share with another person the highs and lows of your faith journey and realise that you are not alone if you find being a Christian tough and be helped to remember that God is faithful.

This coming week we enter the season of Lent a time when we are encouraged to reflect on our faith and life.

Whether your face is glowing with joy or struggling with faith may you find the grace of God this day, as the boy at the foot of the mountain did.