

## **Second Sunday of Lent – Cycle B (March 4, 2012)**

How hard it is to let go...of the need to be right; of lost dreams never to be lived; of anger over past hurts; of a painful memory; of the deep loss of someone loved; of a broken relationship. The list is endless and a reminder that the most painful experience in life is the ability to let go. Growth in life demands change and the need to move on and not be paralyzed by something that is holding you back. People can waste their lives refusing to let go and move on.

Abraham faced the greatest struggle of his life, one of the most painful scenes in all of Scripture: he is asked to sacrifice his own son, his flesh and blood, the one who was to make the covenant a reality. Yes he and Sarah bore a son in their old age and the future generations of the chosen ones depended upon this son named Isaac. But God, whose ways are sometimes difficult to understand, had no intention of Isaac being slain by Abraham, and yet God wanted to know if Abraham would be willing to let go and not cling to this wonderful future of hope. God wanted to be sure that He was at the heart of this covenant and not Abraham's ego or desire for recognition. Abraham passed this awful test because he was willing to let go...

Letting go happens in the most ordinary events of life. It's Super Bowl Sunday and you have made plans for weeks to gather with friends around the television. And then your son approaches you hours before the game and asks that you help him with his science project that is due tomorrow. He is not doing that well and needs you to spend the evening with him. Being a good parent, you let go of your need to watch one of the most anticipated games in the history of football.

We let go of our time when a friend needs our help; we let go of money to help someone in need; we let go of pleasures that are getting in the way of our commitments; we let go of anything that threatens our most important relationships. Letting go admits to being vulnerable and, in the letting go, God invades the voids and disappointments that surely come one's way.

The three apostles had this wonderful experience of witnessing Jesus transfigured...transformed in all of his glory. They were given a glimpse of his destiny and the fulfillment of all the promises of the prophets and the law. They didn't want to let go of the experience but wanted to capture it, possess it, by erecting the three booths or tents. Jesus awakened them to reality and the need to move on back down the mountain and back into life...to Jerusalem, the city of Jesus' destiny.

They walked back down with the memory of what had occurred on that mountain, a memory that would comfort them as they witnessed the reality of the Cross. They indeed let go and followed Jesus. In every letting go, Jesus leads us through the disappointment and even pain into a different way of seeing life and God. We grow through the letting go as we remember what Jesus did out of his love for us. In every letting go, we sacrifice our own self centeredness and need to be in control; and slowly, God becomes more and more at the center of our lives...and we gradually are transfigured or transformed