

Second Sunday of Lent

March 1, 2015

“He charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead.”

- Our first reading today from Genesis is one I usually receive many questions about
 - The most common one is “Why did God do this to Abraham?”
 - The second most common is, “How could Abraham sacrifice his son?”
- Both of these are appropriate questions, and not easily answered...
 - Except by faith
- At Isaac’s birth, Abraham’s wife Sarah laughed with joy... hence the name Isaac
 - This joy is akin to God’s joy that we see in today’s Gospel when Jesus is transfigured before everyone
 - However, only a few verses after the recording of Isaac’s birth, we see that God is asking Abraham to sacrifice him
 - Abraham, in his faith complies, and even has Isaac build the altar on which it will be done
 - This sort of make us cringe a little bit
 - However, in truth, God is not asking Abraham to do anything that God Himself isn’t willing to do... and in fact does... later on
 - That is sacrifice His own Son
- Abraham complies with God’s command and at the last minute an angel comes and stops the sacrifice, and instead offers up a ram
 - I believe that this makes us cringe because of the faith in God that Abraham had to have in order to do this
 - We cringe because we don’t think we have that faith
- This is the same faith Jesus had when He gave His life up
 - The Transfiguration we hear about today is the confirmation from God the Father that Jesus is His son
 - It is that faith that allowed Jesus to not only perform His ministry, but to be given into the hands of the authorities that would kill Him
 - Jesus still had some trepidation
 - In the Garden of Gethsemane He prayed that if possible that He wouldn’t have to go through it
 - But in the end, He placed His will into His Father’s for the good of all
 - He had faith that this was the right thing to do
- This faith of Abraham... this faith of Jesus... this is what we are aspiring to
 - This is a deep and abiding faith in God... our creator... that He always wants the best for us

- AND that this is true even if we don't see it with our human eyes or reason
- God's plan is much bigger than us
- For our part, we need to make ourselves humble enough to pray
 - "Not my will Father, but yours be done"
- Lent is the opportunity for us to increase our faith
- This Wednesday, we will celebrate the Stations of the Cross
 - Historically, this has had a low turnout
 - However, I would ask you to consider attending
 - This is an opportunity to enter into the most painful and heart wrenching part of Jesus' life and ministry on this earth
 - It can help us strengthen our faith in the Father by entering into the experience of Jesus
- As we go forward on our Lenten journey, let us strengthen our faith in the Father, and share the faith of His Son, Jesus Christ
 - It is in that faith where we share not only His pain, which was immeasurable, but also His resurrected joy at Easter
 - It also makes the pain in our own lives more bearable, but also the joy even more joyful