

## **Commentary on the Readings for Today, August 6, 2017**

### **The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord**

### **And the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

In order to appreciate the Transfiguration, we need to better understand what it is and why! Prior to this reading in the Gospel, Jesus gave some very hard instructions to His disciples on Discipleship and the Kingdom of Heaven. In this great event He shows them why He can say what He did and “what’s in this struggle of life for them, and for all of us.” Also in this event, He shows them who He really is – God – and what they can look forward to when their time comes. So let us see how the following readings fit into this scenario.

**The First Reading** is from the **Book of Daniel (7:9-10, 113-14)**. In this scene from Daniel we have the first described vision in the Old Testament of God the Father in all His glory. If we compare this to the Gospel scene, we see how the two are almost identical in showing the Father and Jesus in much the same vision of glory. It is a glimpse of heaven and the Father is shown in the same way that Jesus is described in the Transfiguration scene of the Gospel. Also, this is where Jesus the title of “*the Son of Man*” when talking about himself and Daniel speaks of the Son of Man coming all His glory. See the connection?

**The Responsorial Psalm (97:1-9)**. This psalm continues the same theme of glorifying God in the highest because there is no other way to speak of God. Also, Because this psalm was written long before Jesus’ time, the apostles should have known it and made the connection.

**The Second Reading** is from **St. Peter’s First Letter (1:16-19)**. In this passage, Peter is preaching and instructing others by referring to his encounter with the glorified Christ of the Transfiguration and repeats the message that the Father gave to those who were privileged to be at that great event. He says, “*This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, listen to Him.*” This “listening” is meant for all of us and it is followed up by Mary’s instruction (from the Marriage Feast at Cana, John 2:5) to “*do whatever He tells you.*” What greater instruction could we have?

**The Gospel Reading** is from the **Gospel of Matthew (17:1-9)**. Now we come to the passage in Matthew’s Gospel that tells us of this great scene of the Transfiguration, and by this time, I hope that you can and will appreciate it all the more. Jesus is more than an itinerant preacher of the first century. He is God and we are His creation, made in His image and likeness, and He is trying to tell us how to live our lives in order to be happy here on earth and with Him in heaven forever. BUT, there is a right way and a wrong way, and if we “listen to him” and follow His instructions, we will live forever in total peace and happiness. Something to think about in your prayer time this week!

**MFB**