

The first concert that I went to was MC Hammer and Vanilla Ice opened - if my parents had known what I was going to see at that concert, they should not have let me go

Why do people spend so much money to see things live - sometimes for sporting events, you actually get a better view of the game on TV - so why do people spend so much money to be there live?

Because of the atmosphere - to see and experience the event with our own eyes and senses - without mediation from anyone or anything else

Peter, James, and John were given front row seats to one of the greatest events in all of history - the Transfiguration

Mark and Matthew don't, but Luke records that Peter, James, and John were asleep when the Transfiguration started

Millions before and after have questioned the existence of God - millions more whether God would come to earth and take human nature

Here Jesus true identity is revealed - Here we see Jesus as He really is - God Himself, the Second Person of the Trinity

Jesus was transfigured before them - Jesus' clothes became dazzling white - and Elijah, the great prophet of the OT, and Moses, the great law giver of the OT appeared with Him

The cloud which overshadowed Jesus and his apostles fulfilled the dream of the Jews that when the Messiah came, the cloud of God's presence would fill the temple again

Peter, James, and John heard with their own ears, God the Father say, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

This transfiguration, this revealing of Jesus' true identity as God the Son, would strengthen them in the dark days ahead

For Jesus went to the mountain in the first place, knowing full well what was going to happen afterwards in Jerusalem - that He would be betrayed, rejected, and crucified

God, the Father, sacrificed His only son, for our sake, for our salvation

Abraham, Jesus' ancestor, is willing to sacrifice his only son for God as well

Strange thing is, God had previously promised Abraham descendants as numerous as the stars

So something doesn't quite add up when God to sacrifice his only son, Isaac

Now I only got a B in AP biology, but if I remember correctly, it is kind of hard to have any decedents, let alone, decedents as numerous as the stars, without any children

And yet, despite this, Abraham trusted that God would somehow keep his promise of numerous decedents even as he was asked to sacrifice his only son

Abraham trusted even when what he was being asked to do didn't make sense

Because Abraham trusted, he was given back his son and God provided a ram to offer up in place of his son

Because Abraham trusted, God reiterates the blessings he will receive: descendants as numerous as the stars and that all the world will be blessed through his descendants

Abraham trusted God, even when it didn't seem logical

Abraham was spiritually awake - He knew that God was trustworthy

This Lent we need to become more like Abraham and less like the sleepy apostles

Many of us are spiritually asleep

In this world where things seem to happen at 90 mph, it is hard to find time to slow down and remember why we are so busy in the first place

Socrates, the father of philosophy, of western thinking, said, "The unexamined life is not worth living."

I'm not sure I agree with this statement a 100%, but it has a point

We need to slow down and remember what things are most important in life

We need to slow down and wake up from our spiritual sleep walking and see God, Jesus, for who He really is

We need to slow down and wake up from our spiritual sleep walking and recognize God's glory already present in our lives - faith, a growing faith, enables us to see things that are otherwise hidden - sin, disbelief, even sorrow, and being too busy to spend time with God keep us from seeing this - they keep us spiritually asleep

We need to slow down and wake up from our spiritual sleep walking so that we can know what God wants us to do with our lives instead of just reacting to one crisis after another

We need to slow down and wake up from our spiritual sleep walking so that we can be proactive for what God wants for us rather than reactive to what the world wants for us

In order to slow down and wake up from our spiritual sleep walking, we need to spend time in prayer

Maybe just take 5 minutes of your lunch break, or while the kids are taking a nap, to find some quiet space and just relax, slow down, and breathe deeply - ask God what He wants you to do for the next couple of hours

God has come - we are not orphans - God has shown Himself - in the Transfiguration, God shares His true identity, His true glory

As Paul says in the second reading, "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

God the Father sacrificed His Son, Jesus, for our sake, so that we can have the fullness of life - a life where we can be forgiven and our sins don't have to weigh us down any longer

Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John, and His true identity as God's beloved Son is revealed

We too, during this Lent need to be transfigured

We too need to slow down and wake up from our spiritual sleep walking so that God can change us into his likeness

We are not first the letters behind our names; we are not first the academic, or athletic achievements; we are not first our careers, but we are first sons and daughters of the Most High God

We too need to slow down and wake up from our spiritual sleep walking so that we can hear God tell us our true, our most foundational identity, that we are first His beloved sons and daughters

In a few moments we will experience transfiguration, the transformation, the transubstantiation, of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ

Allow the grace of receiving the Eucharist to wake you from your spiritual sleep walking and better recognize God's transfigurations in your life

In order to do that, I want to challenge you to examine your life at the end of the day, before you fall asleep, by asking God,

"Where were You present in my life today?" - take 5 minutes, 2 minutes, or just 1 minute and ask God this question

If we do this, if we examine our lives in the light of God's grace, we will truly live a life worth living