



*Small Group Newsletter*  
*St. Mary of the Visitation Parish*  
*Cambridge, (H) ONT.*



**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

February 25, 2018

**Introduction to the Word:**

We get offended, put off and angry by so many things - traffic, being late, relationships, not meeting our goals. So often its over little things and sometimes over everything! Of course this slows us down and wears us out. Often all we need to do is "get over it", but the how can be a stumbling block. In our new series for the season of Lent we will ask ourselves what are the stumbling blocks to getting over stuff.

**Warm-up Activity:** (5-10 minutes)

The Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain was a moment that stood out for Peter, James and John as a life changing one. It was a moment when God's plan became clear for them and who Jesus was became apparent. Is there a moment in your life when God's plan became clear for you? Is there a time when who Jesus was for you became apparent? Discuss with your group.

**Let us pray together our Heart to Home Prayer:**

*God Our Heavenly Father, we long to make our thoughts your thoughts,  
and our ways your ways. As we prepare with attentive mind and open heart  
to hear your Word Lord, we long to be empowered with your Spirit  
so that we may bring your Word to our families, our parish and our communities.  
This, our prayer, we make through the intercession of Our Lady of the Visitation and in name of  
Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

**GOSPEL** (Mark 9:2-10)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.

And there appeared to them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Peter did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Consider hearing again the Sunday Message as a Small Group**



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**Reflection:**

Mark, in the Gospel passage, wanted to leave absolutely no doubt as to who this person Jesus really was. He pictures for us the voice of God resounding through the heavens, proclaiming for all time Jesus' privileged status and identity. With these few words from the mountaintop, humankind has received *a final answer* to all of life's questions, to all the world's injustices, to all suffering and sin. God's *final answer* to all of humankind was spoken with unmistakable clarity on top of that mountain. It is a message that is at the heart of Jesus' mission. ***"This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him."*** St. Mark underscores that *from now on Jesus is "The Way."*

In order to comprehend this we must be willing to accept at times "the big picture". Last week as we were in the desert with Jesus we had to deal with temptation ("an invitation to embrace self-interest.") This week in the transfiguration we are invited "up the mountain" to see what God sees. This requires climbing, but also inevitability letting go of the things we cherish most—our hopes and dreams, our life accomplishments, and one day even life itself. But if we don't give up on God's promises, and maintain our faithful trust, we have nothing to fear.

So our question, then, is this: Where do we place our trust? Is it in our *own* dreams and plans for the future, or in the hands of Jesus, who died for us and who continues to intercede for us? Do we need our own glimpse of Jesus' Transfiguration in order to believe in His Resurrection? Do we have to see and touch Jesus before we can believe, or are we able to believe in Him because we have heard Him and the message He proclaims to us today? Today's readings are most challenging, yet if we approach them in faith and trust, we will position ourselves for a glimpse of the "big picture" – so - what are you waiting for?

[Please see supplementary materials using the Book "Perfectly Yourself" by Matthew Kelly](#)

**Questions for Discussion:** (15-20 minutes)

- Where in your life is God asking you to see the big picture and fight an invitation to self interest in your life?
- Why do you think we are we tempted to focus so much on an offense against us and lose sight of the larger picture of all the good we have?
- When have you seen God bring good out of bad in your life or in the life of family member?

**Moving Forward in Prayer** (15-20 minutes)

*This time is reserved for quiet prayer as well as for an action-response to the communal reflections. You may wish to create and add petitions of prayer at this time. It is also intended to provide moments to "outreach" to the community.*

- Offer a Holy Hour in Adoration for the intentions of our Parish and its Pastor.
- Is there a way your small group could help with the Missionary of Mercy Day in Toronto or could attend the Lectio Divina in March with Cardinal Collins?
- [Click here](#) and find out some ways your small group can have a blessed Season of Lent. Could helping our sister parish in Hamilton or our missions in Haiti or Kenya be possible?

Leader: **Let us seek the intercession of the Patroness of our Parish as we pray: Hail Mary**