



## SUNDAY MATTERS

### Week # 2 – Second Sunday of Lent

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.

*While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!' "*



Each of us in our life gets offended or upset. It may come from something that breaks a law or rule or something we simply see as distasteful or unpleasant. Being offended in life is inevitable. You can't get through a year, a month, a week, or even a day without being offended in some way. Some offenses that we experience are simply perceived. We feel offended or hurt even though no real harm or injustice has been done to us. It is just our wounded pride or bruised ego. Then, there are real offenses. We live in a sin-stained world and people will lie to us or cheat us or steal from us or harm us in some other way. Sometimes these lead to anger, and sometimes that anger can be lingering and it can slow us down or impact our own success.

As we began Lent last Sunday, we were introduced to the image of Jesus in the desert faced with temptation. In this encounter in the desert Jesus comes to portrays for us who He is and what He is about. We concluded that for our series we will go with the working definition that temptation is *"an invitation to embrace self-interest"* Jesus was tempted even though He was following the direction of the Holy Spirit. He didn't give into temptation because He was not apart from God's will but because He was in it. We can face temptation, but giving into it and living the fruit of living with an offended heart is never good.

Jesus taught in the Gospel last week that the first things we need to get over is – ourselves! We need to fight the sense of entitlement which leads to becoming a service orientated person. Where we believe we have the right to it.

So this week we are brought up the mountain and introduced to the Transfiguration of Christ. We have no doubt, after reading this Gospel account, that Jesus is the Son of God. But that is not the only reason why Peter, James and John (and ourselves) are taken up this mountain. No, we are all here so that we can "take in the view." To be better able to see God's view of things – God's perspective.

It is so easy in life to just see our view. So often the misunderstandings of life happen due to not see another's view. So often the set backs in our faith life happen because we are not able to comprehend God's view – His long range plan for our lives. Yet that is exactly what faith calls us to do.

- Pray today for the grace to see God's perspective – His big view – for your life.
- What is your most common reaction to being offended? (defensiveness, anger, revenge). What are some ways you can pray for a transfiguration of how you react?

O Lord, during these days of Lent  
as we prepare to walk with your Son into the desert of our lives,  
remind us always that you are with us, that we are never alone,  
that we have nothing to fear, but everything to hope for.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

During our previous Message Series "[Defining Moments](#)" we journeyed together through Matthew Kelly's book "Perfectly Yourself". We continue our reflection of that for a few weeks during Lent.

### **Eighth Lesson – What is Your Mission?**

The call of the 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter is to Engage... to adopt the bigger picture of God for ourselves, our family life, our faith life and our day to day life. To become engaged in His plan for us. It is a pretty appropriate continuation with the theme of our Lenten journey.

*Look at the Five Points Outlined in Chapter 8. Scribe for yourself the next steps in your **Road Map** by asking:*

- How can I become more proactively aware of the needs of others in my local community?
- How can I take my "greatest talent" and use it to make a difference?
- How can I take time to focus on the question "How can I serve?" instead of "What's in it for me?"

*Pray with me this week.....*

Jesus I am looking for you  
Jesus I want to see where you live  
Jesus I want to come and see every day  
(now be still for 5 minutes – let God speak)

*See you Sunday!*