**Five Minute Jesus**

**Using the Gospel for Prayer** – **Second Sunday in Lent** - March 8, 2020

*It’s simple. 1. Read the Gospel for the following Sunday slowly, reflecting on the story it tells. 2. Reflect on the questions assigned for each day. 3. Make some resolution about how what you read can be lived that day. 4. Then thank God for speaking to you through this reflection.*

**The Gospel according to Matthew 17:1-9**

**Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.**

**And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.**

**And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply,**

**“Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”**

**When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and do not be afraid.” And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone.**

**As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, “Do not tell the vision to anyone**

**until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”**

**Sunday**

Was there something in this reading that spoke to me? Comforted me? Challenged me? What was it? Why did it have this effect on me?

**Monday**

The Gospel says that Jesus led Peter James and John up a high mountain. This story is one of the roots of the expression “mountaintop experience”; a transformative moment or experience in our life. Have I ever had a mountaintop experience? What did it do for me? What did it teach me? Where was God on that mountaintop with me?

**Tuesday**

Once on the mountaintop we discover Moses and Elijah are there. They are there to say that Jesus is the fulfillment of everything the Law commands and the prophets preached. The Law and the Prophets are how people in Jesus’ day referred to their “Bible”. Do I read the Bible - even if it is just the readings at mass? And when I do, what do I hear? Are there moments when Moses, Elijah or Jesus himself speak to me? What do they say? How do I respond?

**Wednesday**

Peter loved the mountaintop. He was even willing to build tents so that they could stay! Have I ever had a mountaintop experience where I tried to stay? What happened to the experience then? Why did it happen? What happened to me as a result?

**Thursday**

The “bright cloud” and the voice remind Peter, James and John of who Jesus truly is, and what they have to do: listen to him! They are terrified. But when they DO listen to Jesus, his first words are “Do not be afraid”. Scholars tell us that Jesus says “do not be afraid” more times than any other sentence in the Gospels. It must have been very important for the first Christians to hear Jesus say that. Is it for me? Have I ever been afraid? Truly terrified? What would it have meant for me to hear God say, “Do not be afraid” to me? Did I hear that in some way? What was my reaction?

**Friday**

Sooner or later we have to come down off the mountain. And then we begin to tell others about our ***awesome*** experience. But why did Jesus tell his friends they could not tell anyone about it? Have I ever tried to share an experience with someone – and they did not understand? How did that feel? What did they need to see and experience what I did?

And why was it so important that they remain silent until “the Son of Man had been raised from the dead”?