

# Connecting with the Sunday Readings

Second Sunday of Lent    Gospel Word  
Luke 9:28b-36

Life has its ups and downs. Those closest to Jesus would eventually witness what on the surface at least was a terrible “down.” He was going to be apprehended, falsely accused, tortured, and crucified. It was the worst. He was treated as a common criminal by the authorities, both religious and secular. How would his followers handle this disgrace and seeming defeat? How would they respond when life became very difficult for him and for them?

The story of the Transfiguration is recorded in all the synoptic accounts of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). In the Gospel according to Luke the chapters and verses before the story of the Transfiguration are setting the scene for his passion and death. It is the story of a buildup not only for today’s reader, but also for the participants in the Gospel. Jesus is getting the disciples ready. Shortly after this scene, the Evangelist announces, “When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51). Those closest to Jesus would be tested in Jerusalem.

## Living the Word

Dealing with difficulties is not reserved to those close to Jesus. It happens to all of us. There are personal tragedies, work problems, family squabbles, economic setbacks; the list could go on and on. It could be as simple as a leaking toilet or a car that fails to start. Life can be hard. So how do we deal with these problems? The general Christian response is with courage and hope. We believe that our God is a God of life not death. And we pray for the strength to endure. We hope for the best.

Sometimes we survive if we can call to mind moments when we felt affirmed and encouraged. Peter, James, and John would need extra strength. They would need to survive the events of Jesus’ passion and death. They needed a reservoir of good memories to draw upon. They were given one on the mountain with Jesus. Naturally they wanted to hold that moment forever, but that’s not the way life is. Jesus might have said something like “When you have a bad day, when there is more darkness than light, remember this moment.” For us we can recall times when we felt close to God or when we experienced life as a wonderful gift from God. Think of life as an opportunity to collect good memories. In fact, think of investing in them.

## One-line Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us remember the moments of love and goodness especially when life is difficult. Amen.