

Connecting With the Sunday Readings

Second Sunday in Lent

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 apprehended, falsely accused, tortured, and crucified. 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?

Dealing with difficulties is not reserved to those close to Jesus. It happens to all of us. There are also personal tragedies, work problems, family squabbles, economic setbacks; the list could go on and on. Life can be hard. So how do we deal with these problems? Through our Christian faith we are strengthened with courage and hope. We believe that our God is a God of life not death, and even in difficult times we know that in the end all will be well.

A Gospel Word for the Home

Luke 9:28b-36

We manage many of our difficult times by remembering moments when we were affirmed, encouraged, and successful. The account of the Transfiguration described in today’s Gospel provided Peter, James, and John with an experience of Jesus’ glory which probably would sustain them in difficult times. Even at the time of the Transfiguration they wanted to hold the moment forever, but they had to return from the mountain and face the challenges of the day.

Thought for the Week

When difficulties occur in our lives we can also remember what the Christian life is all about. We recall times when we felt close to God or when we experienced life as a wonderful gift from God. It’s important not to hold these memories close and not forget them. Think of life as an opportunity to collect good memories and invest in them. Be open to enjoying life. Jesus was.

Parent Survival

We often hear people say, "take care of yourself." Such care can take many forms, but one way is rooted in today's Gospel reading, and it would be to remember the good times. There's an ancient Rabbinic saying that goes something like this "God will hold us accountable for every legitimate pleasure given to us that we don't enjoy." That's worth remembering. Life can be hard, but it's also created by God as a gift filled with goodness. Let's remember this. As a parent, there are those precious moments when we take deep satisfaction and joy from our children. Then there are the other times: the sleepless nights of worry, the sadness because of their difficulties. That's when we need to remember those special times when we saw them and ourselves in a different light. We all have transfigured moments. Don't forget them.

Car or Meal Talk

Ask each family member to recall a positive family moment that they never want to forget.

One-Line Prayer

Dear God, thank you for those moments when we really felt your love and that of others, too. Amen.