



A Reflection for Sunday next before Lent Readings - 2 Peter 1.16--21 & Matthew 17.1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

Jonathan Edwards (1703 – 1758) was an American revivalist preacher, philosopher, and Congregationalist theologian. Edwards is widely regarded as one of America's most important and original philosophical theologians. This is his reflection upon going out and walking into the woods as we reflect upon The Transfiguration.

Once as I rode out into the woods for my health in 1737... for divine contemplation and prayer, I had a view, that for me was extraordinary, of the glory of the Son of God, as Mediator between God and man, and his wonderful, great, full, pure and sweet grace and love and meek, gentle condescension. This grace that appeared so calm and sweet appeared also great above the heavens. The person of Christ appeared ineffably excellent, with an excellency great enough to swallow up all thought and conception—which continued, as near as I can judge, about an hour; which kept me the greater part of the time in a flood of tears, and weeping aloud. I felt an ardency of soul to be what I know not otherwise how to express, emptied and annihilated; to lie in the dust; and to be full of Christ alone; to love him; to serve and follow him; and to be perfectly sanctified and made pure, with a divine and heavenly purity.

Jesus invites you and I to be like Peter, James and John. As is appropriate for each one of us to purposefully have a state of mind that seeks to draw closer to Jesus as though walking up a mountainside and to spend time with him at the summit. To deepen our own spirituality thus enabling us to be effective as salt and light for Jesus in the world.

We are invited to take time, as Peter, James and John did, when they walked with Jesus to the mountain top.

Thank you for reading.

The Reverend Nick Devenish

*Night Prayer from Cartmel Vicarage is available from 9.00pm week nights on Facebook.
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