

**“And he was transformed before them:  
his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.”**

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

**Once upon a time**, the British writer, Bede Griffith, described a remarkable episode he experienced when he was just a schoolboy. He says:

**“As I strolled along by myself one summer evening, I became aware of how beautifully the birds were singing. I wondered why I had never heard them sing like this before. As I continued the walk, I came upon some Hawthorn trees in bloom. They were lovely and gave off a sweet fragrance that filled the air. I wondered why I had never noticed their beauty or aroma before. Finally, I came to a playing field. Everything was quiet, still, lush, & emerald green. As I stood there, watching the sun sink, slowly, behind the horizon, I felt inclined to kneel on the ground and pray. It was as though God, Himself, were present there ...in a tangible way.**

**Now that I look back, it seems to me, it was one of the decisive events of my life.”**

Griffith goes on to say that, up until that time, he had been a ‘normal’ schoolboy, content with the world as he found it. Now, he saw the world in a whole new way. In the words of the great poet, Wordsworth, he saw it, with **‘the glory and freshness of a dream.’**

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I share Griffith’s experience with you because it gives us a glimpse into what Peter, James, and John must have felt on another summer evening 2,000 years earlier, when Jesus was **‘transfigured’** before their very eyes, about which I just read to you from St. Matthew’s Gospel.

It, too, was a decisive moment in **their** lives. Up until that time, they had seen Jesus in a relatively ‘normal’ way. Now, they began to see him in a whole, **new** perspective. They began to see him with ...**‘the glory and freshness of a dream,’** so to speak.

Like Bede Griffith and his boyhood experience, Peter never forgot the transfiguration of Jesus. Years later, he would write about it:

**“With our own eyes, we saw his greatness. We were there when he was given honor and glory by God the Father, when the voice came to him from the Supreme Glory, saying, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him!’ We, ourselves, heard this voice coming from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain (Tabor).”** <sup>2Pt. 1:16-18</sup>

I think we can all relate to what Peter experienced on the mountaintop ... at least to some extent. The same goes for Griffith’s experience in his boyhood... at least to some extent.

All of us have had similar experiences in life. I mean, we have experienced times when, for a split second, we seemed to glimpse another world beyond this one.

The psychologist, Abraham Maslow, calls such moments of insight, **‘peak moments,’** about which you may have heard me speak in the past. They are moments when, for an instant, we see beyond ordinary events to something extraordinary. They are moments of **‘transfiguration’** when, like Peter, James, & John, we are overwhelmed by a remarkable **sense of God’s presence**.

If we listen closely, when these moments occur, we, too, may hear a heavenly voice say:

**“This is my own dear Son, with whom I am well pleased—listen to him!”**

Unfortunately, we don’t follow through on these experiences. Unfortunately, we even forget they ever happen. Or, as we grow older, we don’t walk outside to watch a sun set or we don’t climb mountains to invite such experiences to take place or to even leave ourselves **‘open’** to such.

Commenting on his experience, Bede Griffith makes this point:

**“There can be few people to whom such experience does not come at some point,  
BUT... it is easy to let it pass...  
Our world quickly returns to its normal appearance and the vision, which we have seen,  
...fades away.”**

The truth of the matter is that the risen Jesus is constantly revealing himself to us. **BUT** ... we are too busy to notice. We are too busy to pause to look for him.

Today’s Gospel speaks to this situation.

**‘How so?’ you ask.**

**Well, it’s about time—I am glad you asked that question!**

It (the Gospel) tells us that Jesus is the Son of God.

It tells us that Jesus is risen.

It tells us that Jesus wants to show himself to us...  
through our family,  
through our children,  
through nature,  
through our true friends,  
through our gathering here each Sat./Sunday.

Today’s gospel invites us to look for Jesus, not only in the extraordinary events of life,  
**BUT** ... also in the very ordinary ones.

Jesus is everywhere in our world.

Jesus wants us to look for him.

Jesus is waiting for us.

We need only look.

I now close by repeating today’s Opening Prayer for this Mass.

It makes a fitting conclusion of today’s homily:

**“Lord, open our hearts  
To the voice of your word  
And free us from the original darkness  
That shadows our vision.  
Restore our sight  
That we may look upon your Son.  
We make our prayer  
Through Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.”**

May Almighty God, our Abba, bless you, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.