



**"...and He was Transfigured before them."**

Once upon a time, there were two stories, the gist of which I will now share with you.

1<sup>st</sup> story is about:

**The film... 'Mask':** it is based on a true story about a teen named, Rocky Dennis, who has a terrible bone disease, making his head grotesquely disproportionate to his body. It eventually kills him while he is a teen. Incidentally, 'Cher' plays a wonderful part as Rocky's mom.

Well, as the story goes, one day Rocky and some friends go to an amusement park, like our Kenneywood, and into a House of Mirrors. The teens laugh and point, as the mirrors distort their appearance. Suddenly they stop dead, wordless, as they look at a mirror making Rocky look perfectly normal and actually quite handsome! For the 1<sup>st</sup> time, they see Rocky as he really is on the inside. This is what happened with the apostles as they looked upon Jesus at the Transfiguration. They saw his true beauty, on the inside, as his Divinity leaked through his humanity.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> story is about a:

**Peanuts cartoon:** Schroeder holds a record (not a CD or an I-pod) of Baum's 4<sup>th</sup> Symphony.

Lucy- 'What are you going to do?'

Schr.- 'I'm going to play this symphony for you to listen to.'

Lucy- 'You mean... dance to. You mean... sing along with.'

Schr.- 'NO, just to listen to.'

Lucy- 'LISTEN! Well, that's the stupidest thing I ever heard of!'

We often find it most difficult to listen to someone. We tend to think we have it under control and all figured out. Furthermore, we often feel we have to be DOING something.

So, referring to the Transfiguration, pay close attention to what that Voice said. It said:

*"THIS IS MY SON. LISTEN TO HIM."*

It did NOT say: 'THIS IS MY SON, LOVE HIM; THIS IS MY SON, ACCEPT HIM; THIS IS MY SON, FOLLOW HIM, THIS IS MY SON, BOW DOWN & ADORE HIM. BUT:

*'THIS IS MY SON... LIS-TEN-TO-HIM!!!*



*So, 'what's my point about the 2 stories?' you ask.*

*Now, here's my point about the 2 stories...they beg us to ask one question of each of them.*

*In the 1<sup>st</sup> story, about Rocky, mirrors changed his looks. 1<sup>st</sup> question:*

**Do we tend to judge by appearances?**

*In the 2<sup>nd</sup> story about Schroeder & Braum's 4<sup>th</sup> Symph. 2<sup>nd</sup> question:*

**Do we really LISTEN to God?**

...in the preaching we hear; in the praying we do?

**Do we really LISTEN to God?**

**PRAYER:** Lord, help us to look beyond the cover of the book, to avoid judging by appearances only, and, like You, look into the heart of each individual! Lord, in this era of Surround-sound, Digital Recording on Compact Discs, Sound Bars, & I-pods, teach us to stop 'DOING' in place of 'LISTENING;' help us to look within and learn to 'LISTEN' first.....and then to 'LOVE.'

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