

Jesus, I Trust in You

Gen. 22: 1-2, 9-13,15-18; Rom. 8: 31b-35, 37; Mk. 9: 2-10

In the First Reading for this Sunday, we read the familiar story of God commanding Abraham to take his son, Isaac, to a distant mountain and sacrifice him. Anyone who has children can imagine the horror that Abraham and Sarah must have felt upon hearing God's request. God had already made a covenant with Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, that his descendants would be so numerous that they would be like the stars in the sky or the grains of sand on a beach. And Isaac, the son that God gave Abraham and Sarah in their old age, was the seal of that covenant. Without Isaac, how would Abraham have his numerous descendants?

Abraham and Sarah did not question God's request. They had faith that God had a plan to keep His covenant. So Abraham prepared to sacrifice Isaac. Fortunately, God intervened and told Abraham to stop and provided a ram to serve as the sacrifice. God was only testing Abraham's faith. He wanted Abraham to put his future, his destiny, into God's hands and trust only in Him. Only in God.

In the Gospel, we read about the Transfiguration of Jesus. Jesus took three of His disciples up a mountain by themselves and, there, He gave them a glimpse of His eternal glory. His clothes became so dazzlingly white that they were almost blinded. And then they saw a vision of Moses and Elijah, the great prophets of old, speaking with Jesus. Peter was so enthralled with this vision that he didn't know what to say. He simply wanted to remain there with the three of them and bask in the glow. But as soon as he voiced this desire, he heard God telling them that Jesus was His Son and that they were to listen to Him, and the two prophets disappeared. There was only Jesus. Only Jesus.

The message is clear. God wants us to place our lives totally in His hands, trusting only in Him. He loves us and everything that He does is for our good; even if we don't always think so.

When I visit inmates at Toronto South Detention Centre, I notice two types of people; those who have decided to place their lives in the hands of God and those who have not yet come to this decision. The former group tend to be calm and joyful even in the midst of their unpleasant circumstances. They know that God loves them and they are at peace. The latter group are anxious, worried, and angry. They tend to complain about their conditions more than the other group.

The psalmist says the following:

*In God alone is my soul at rest;
My help comes from Him.
He alone is my rock, my stronghold,
My fortress: I stand firm.*
(Ps. 62)

We have been given this season of Lent for our benefit. Let us use this time of prayer, fasting and alms-giving to draw ever closer to God. Let us go deeper in our relationship with Him so that we can place ourselves totally under His providential care, trusting in Him in every aspect of our life. There is a picture of the Divine Mercy in our Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Let us embrace the words at the bottom of the picture in our daily lives: *Jesus, I Trust in You*. Only in Jesus.