

FAITH COMES BY HEARING Bible Study – 2.7.24 (for 2.11.24)

FIRST READING: Exodus 34:29-35

²⁹When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. ³²Afterward all the people of Israel

came near, and he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. ³³And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. ³⁴Whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, ³⁵the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

- 1) In Exodus 32, Moses experiences disrespect for his leadership from the Israelites. How did his return from the mountain affect them? What did his glowing face signify?
- 2) This is the first time the people have seen Moses in 40 days. How does this enhance their response?
- 3) As Moses shares the Law, he keeps his face unveiled, but then later put on a veil for the sake of the people. What do you think this information is trying to show us?

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

¹²Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over

their hearts. ¹⁶But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

- 1) Paul continues with this understanding of the veil. He shares that those under the old covenant have minds and hearts that are hardened and veiled. What does Paul mean?
- 2) Why does the Law not give life?
- 3) Who does Paul show us is the one who lifts the veil, gives us freedom, and leads us into life? Why is this important?

GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9

²And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and

one for Elijah." ⁶For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." ⁸And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. ⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

- 1) This passage recreates the opening scene in Mark's Gospel (see Mark 1:9-11). What are the similarities between these two moments? What are the differences?
- 2) How does Jesus' transfiguration confuse Peter, James, and John (especially Peter)?
- 3) This scene takes place right after Peter's confession of Jesus as the Christ (and his quick rebuking by Jesus). How would have the Father's voice affected Peter? How does the Father's voice affect you?