

Today, many faiths, many churches are celebrating Transfiguration Sunday, the day that Jesus climbed up the mountain with Peter, James, and John. And he revealed himself in a light that they hadn't seen at that time, shared with them who he was, even though they had already known. They had already known that he is the Messiah. They'd already known all the miracles and wonderfulness that he has done, but it didn't become real to them until that day, until they climb the mountain.

They saw him standing there with Moses and Elijah, and then had a glow overcoming. And they heard the voice, the voice that said He is my son. Listen to him.

That's a great thing. It's a great thing to think about that moment when God, when Jesus, stopped being a Sunday school lesson and started being part of your life. When it really came. When you had that moment of realization that it was something so much bigger than what, and then what you knew before.

We talked about it a little bit on Sunday or not Sunday. In Bible study on Friday today is Sunday. Of course we're talking about it.

When was that moment for you? Think about it. Think about the first time you realized how great God was. Was it the first time you came to church? I can guarantee, probably not for most of us because we don't get the choice, right? We don't get to choose as kids to come to church. Many times the choice is made for us. We like coming. We enjoy coming. We love seeing our friends, but it doesn't quite mean the same thing. It doesn't quite mean they really understand everything about God about Jesus, about what to sacrifice that he truly made for us.

I used to love coming to church as a kid. I did. I might not always acted like it when we were coming, but I loved being here. I loved the family, the fellowship, the being together. But I didn't understand what it really meant.

That's like, today's reading. We're hearing about the blind man. We've heard many times about blind men being made to see. We've heard many times all of the great miracles that Jesus performed, coming through, coming forward and doing these things, healing the sick, feeding the five thousand, walking on water, things that just seem so outrageous that they couldn't be humanly possible. And they aren't.

Even though Jesus was a man like us, he still was more than that, but seeing it being a part of that world. Did they truly understand everything that was happening to the blind man, right at the beginning.

We do that a lot. We say, why is God doing this to us? Why is God making these things so hard for me? We always want to play. We always want to know the whys. We want to know why is this happening? Well, we don't have an answer, so it must be God's fault.

God doesn't do those things. God doesn't intentionally punish us because of something that we may have done, that our parents may have done, and we have to pay for it. We don't know. Well, we do know that God is there to be with us To help us through those times to help us Get to the other side To make sense When it's all over, And unfortunately, we still hear that. Today, there are still some faiths that believe there's something that happens to a child because of something that their parents did.

It's easy to blame God. Jesus is to help, to help that young man. He gives him vision and sight when nobody else did. When nothing else he did fixed him, and he's happy. And he goes, and he tells the world he tells everyone he tells the Pharisees. He tells his parents. He tells his friends. He tells Gentiles. He tells Jews. And none of them, they know him. They knew he was

born that way. They knew he was born that way, and they still say, well, it can't be because I don't believe that Jesus could have done this, be out here.

We do that so many times. We put our beliefs upon other people. We do that. So many times, we put our beliefs upon other people. We say it can't be because I don't want it to be. You're having a great day. I'm having a bad day. I'm going to blame you for my bad day. It's not your fault. You had nothing to do with it, but we have to. We have to do those things, we have to put our beliefs on other people because it makes sense to us.

The blind man tells everyone he didn't know who Jesus was. He didn't know right away. He was the one that cared for him, but as he sat and talked with him, he realized this man is greater than I am. This man can accomplish things that I can't even imagine, and all of you have seen it. You've seen it all your lives. You've been a part of his following. You've been a part of his discipleship. You've seen the miracles he's created with your own eyes, and yet you still choose to not believe is the problem. That he's not really doing it is the problem. That you choose to not believe it, and why, why wouldn't they choose to do it?

Why wouldn't they choose to follow Jesus and believe what he was saying? Because that's what we all want, right? We all want a better life. We all want a better life for everyone else, but there are times that we still choose to not see God's work working through other people, working through us.

We all do a wonderful job supporting the community, helping others. And we do it because we know we're supposed to. We know it's the right thing to do. Sometimes, we forget that we are the difference that God is working through us to make these changes. That, even though we are so used to the great and good that we do, we forget that that miracle is in each and every one of us. That we should feel God's love coming out of us while we're doing these things, because that's what it is. It's more than being told all of our lives. It's more than being told all of our lives that God is great.

God is great, and it can be seen through each one of us at the great works that we do. We are no longer blind because we know God's love, but we also know that God's love is in each and every one of us and the miracles are not just God, but the miracles are us. And that we get to be a part of it each and every day. And we become like James and John and Peter because we can see that Transfiguration. We can see the change in each one of us. It isn't just us, the human us.

Let us pray.