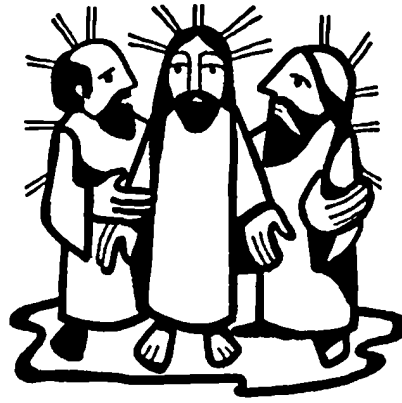


A God who appeals to Risk Takers....



God could have remained unknown, a faceless entity, and a type of superior being whose presence we would only feel on certain days, a God who would be more absent than present. He could have concealed himself behind an abstract concept, a more or less defined creative energy. Yet God had a human face. He was a real person, a Jew whose name was *Yéshua ben Ioseph* – Jesus, son of Joseph – Jesus of Nazareth whose life is recorded in our history and the Gospels.

The God of our faith communicated with us. Peter, James and John went with Christ up the mountain where God spoke to them and said: *This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!* But will we agree to take this huge risk and follow Christ – just like the apostles did? This risk reminds us of Abraham’s choice based on his confidence in God’s promises.

Though our life experiences have made us wary of promises, God’s are immensely rewarding. Abraham’s faith in God’s Word put him on the road to the *Promised Land*. He would leave everything behind, somewhat like the refugees who stand anxiously on a platform at a train station or hide in a ship’s hold waiting to set sail to freedom.

The disciples’ experience at the Transfiguration reminds us of Abraham’s. They caught a glimpse of the Light despite whatever challenges death and failure would throw at them. Some time before this strange experience on the mountain, Jesus had already begun to indicate what awaited him at the end of his voyage to Jerusalem.

Jesus took Peter, James and John with him, the same disciples who would one day witness his disfigured face at Gethsemane. He allowed them to see his human body transfigured by his divinity. The Transfiguration tore apart the veil that separates us from eternity and the disciples heard the Father declare his love for his Son: *This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!*

Abraham’s promise of descendants more numerous than the stars and the Promised Land would be fulfilled. Peter, James and John were promised eternal life and when they returned from the mountain, they also were invited to risk everything for their faith.

Our God always asks us to take risks but the rewards are immeasurable.

Father Jacques Houle, c.s.v.

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli

God Keeps His Promise : Be Confident !