



## *Reflection from Ben*

"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." - Mark 9:7

Listening to what our readings this second Sunday of Lent are telling us is a good start in listening to the beloved Son of God.

In our first reading from Genesis, God puts Abraham to a test. He, who gave Abraham a son in Isaac, now asks Abraham to sacrifice Isaac back to Him. God did not require Abraham to do anything that He Himself would not do. God's command to Abraham to offer his only son prefigures how God would later offer His own son for our salvation. God prevented the sacrifice of Isaac because Abraham's faith was firm.

Abraham was attentive to God's word and command. Above all, he trusted God. This season of Lent, we are asked to pause: to listen to God and do what He asks of us.

This same call is demanded of us in the Gospel of Mark as he presents to us the transfiguration of Jesus. The Mt. Tabor event reflects the divinity of Jesus. It is a glimpse of the gift and glory of God. It is also where God confirms the lordship of Jesus: "This is my beloved Son." But, along with that is the demand: "Listen to him."

Listening to Christ means changing our ways and paying attention to God's word. Listening to Jesus means being aware of the poor, the marginalized, the sick, the defenseless and the old.

Are we listening to Him in the bells' tolling for half a million deaths due to Covid-19? Are we listening to those displaced by the winter storms? Are we listening to the scientists who ask us to socially distance and put on masks?

If we respond to these, rather than being indifferent, then we have listened to Jesus Christ, God's beloved son. God is ready to make sure that we get to our destination this Lenten season, because Christ is with us on our journey.

*~ Peace,*

*Ben*