

Commentary on the Readings for February 25, 2024

The Second Sunday of Lent

Remember some years ago when a certain brokerage firm had an advertising slogan that said, "When 'So & So' speaks, everyone listens." That slogan could be used for the theme of the Readings for today; however we would change it to, ***"When God speaks, everyone should listen."***

In the Old Testament, God spoke numerous times to and through various people such as Abraham, Moses and the Prophets. In the New Testament God speaks about and through His Son, Jesus Christ. He did this in dreams to Mary and Joseph, through the angels at Bethlehem. But do we listen? Do we really listen to the Gospels and other scripture readings in a manner that helps us absorb their meaning?

The **First Reading** is from the ***Book of Genesis (22:1-18)***. Here, God speaks to Abraham and gives him a command to test his loyalty. Abraham obeys even though it will cost him his beloved son, Isaac. Of course, we know that God stopped Abraham in time to save Isaac. It was only a test but a major one. As a result, Abraham became the Father of the Jewish people through his son Isaac. Thus, Abraham listened and obeyed and "It was credited to him as righteousness." (**Galatians 3:6**)

The **Responsorial Psalm** is (**116:10-19**). In the full-length version of this Psalm, it is a prayer of a grateful disciple who was ill and has now been healed. He recognizes that God heard his prayer and has answered. How can we expect God to listen to our prayers if we don't take the time to listen to Him?

The **Second Reading** is from Paul's ***Letter to the Romans (8:31-34)***. The opening sentence should give everyone courage and strength, particularly when faced with some great struggle in life: ***"If God is for us, who can be against us?"*** But then, how do we know that God is "for us"? When we make time to pray, attend Mass or other liturgies, read about God, Jesus, Mary or the Saints, we will know that He is for us when we hear that "wee small voice" whispering to our heart. (**1 Kg 19:12**)

The **Gospel Reading** is taken from the ***Gospel of Mark (9:2-10)***. Everyone is familiar with the story of the Transfiguration of Christ, when Jesus shows Peter, James and John who He really is, the Son of God in Glory. The purpose of this apparition was to show the apostles who they were really following and what they had to look forward to at the end of life's journey. But without looking it up, can you recall what the message was, directly from God the Father to Moses, Elijah, the apostles and to us? It was the voice of God the Father saying, "This is my beloved Son, ***listen to Him!***"

Although Mary, the Mother of Jesus, has very little to say in the entire Bible, one of her statements was, ***"Do whatever He tells you."*** (**John 2:5**) Therefore, if we put these quotations

together, we get, ***"Listen to Him and do whatever He tells you."*** Something to think about during your prayer time this week!

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