

Transformers – People, Not Toys

Intro. There has been a series of movies and toys called transformers. I don't know which came first, but one helped sell the other. In the movie, there is some crisis, cars morph into large robots that fight each other and then return to their previously peaceful forms. It is fairly harmless fantasy. In reality we know people can also change, sometimes for good *and* for bad. Today's gospel is about transforming for the good.

I. According the Mark, the Lord gave no reason for going up the mountain. He simply invited three of his disciples to join him on a hike. There, they had an amazing experience: they saw a preview of the divinity of the Son of God. The next time they would see that was after his resurrection in his

glorified body when they had difficulty recognizing him. On that mountain the disciples had an experience they couldn't explain to each other much less anybody else. Understanding the significance of this moment would come later, only after the resurrection. This may be why the Lord told them not to tell anyone about it. Who would believe them!

Concl. *We* don't fully understand some of the experiences that change *us* when they happen. At some later moment it dawns on us we are no longer the same person. It could be the realization that we can master a new language or a new skill like riding a bike for the first time. The same is true in our spiritual life. "Going to the mountain" has become a phrase that means an event in which one receives a stunning insight. Martin Luther King, Jr. used this

biblical image in one of his most famous speeches about equality and freedom. He believed the Lord had brought him to a place in his life for a specific revelation. Maybe the Lord has “appeared” in front of us in an event or person; been made truly present to us in a critical moment in our lives. When it happens we are like Peter, saying, Wow! “How good it is to be here.” Let’s put up the tents and stay. The experience of the mountain is a glimpse of heaven given to encourage us. But we cannot stay for long; we have other responsibilities. So back down the mountain we come. We always carry with us that experience. In difficult times we can take out the memory and say, on that shining day, all was good. We can be *encouraged* by the experience, put it back in our heart and work for the next glimpse of heaven. But we can also be *transformed* by it and share it

with others who needs to know how good it is to be in the presence of the Lord. For disciples it is not a secret to be kept to ourselves. We must become, not toy transformers but **transformers of people.**

