

Don't Tell It on the Mountain

Intro. When we find something or someone important, we often like to tell close friends or family. After Peter recognized the Lord as the Son of God, the Lord took him and two other close friends to the mountain to share with them a part of himself no one had seen. It was to increase their faith.

I. When the Lord invited three good friends to join him for prayer, they had no idea they were about to see the face of God. To make the revelation even more astounding, the two greatest prophets of the Jewish tradition, Moses and Elijah, appeared, talking with the Lord. Then, the disciples heard the voice of God from the heavens telling them to listen to the

Lord. The three disciples were confused, but knew they were experiencing a miracle.

We have experienced incredible moments ourselves: being in love, the birth of a baby, finding and following a dream, feeling the powerful presence of God. Like the moment on the mountain, some of our experiences are also hard to put into words or explain clearly to others. Sometimes words cannot express what happened to us. So, we just hold these experiences in our hearts. The disciples did not know what to say in response to what the Lord showed them, so they said nothing. Later, after the resurrection, they would be able to talk about the visit to the mountain. For now, it was their secret.

The disciples had seen incredible things before going to the mountain: the calming of the storm, the

healing of a man possessed by an evil spirit, the raising from the dead of a girl and the miraculous feeding of five thousand people. This experience on the mountain was to show beyond doubt Jesus was not just a prophet. Yet, the Lord wanted to be sure they knew who he was. Peter said he was the Son of God and so was given a vision of his glory. Of course, Peter wanted to stay there. It was the best moment of his life so far. Unfortunately, he couldn't stay. Most of us cannot stay in similar moments or make them last forever. Except by holding them in our hearts. We must come back to a world to remind each other of the presence of God, especially when we can't see him clearly because war, hate and injustice seem to be everywhere around us.

Concl. Peter, John and James almost missed seeing the Lord's glory on the mountain; they were

sleeping; possibly tired from climbing the mountain. How many times do we miss the presence of God because *we* are tired, angry or sad! We have temptations that also distract us from seeing the Lord each day. During the weeks of Lent, we have the opportunity to remove temptations from our hearts by fasting and prayer. We don't have to go to a mountain for God to reveal himself to us. He could show himself to us when we are working or playing or relaxing. We can make space for the Lord by turning off some of the "noise" from chats and texts. **One important thing we can do in Lent is to keep our hearts and eyes open to the Lord's presence and hear his call to follow him.**

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