

Statio August 2011

Transfiguration Luke 9:28-36 You are my beloved Daughter

We follow the invitation of Luke to climb with Jesus a high mountain, to pray with Jesus on the mountain and to be transfigured with him. If we pray as concentrated as Jesus did, then we touch in prayer the true image God has about me, no masks any longer, the true icon of God becomes visible. We pray for the grace that during this Statio we leave the valley of our every day life and that God let shine His light in the centre of my person and that I experience His healing and transforming power on the mountain of God.

When Jesus was transfigured in prayer Moses and Elijah appeared to him. *Moses* is the image of the lawgiver and liberator. When we grow into God in prayer then our life will be in order; we shall do what God wants us to do, that is to do His holy will in inner freedom. Moses leads into the freedom of the children of God. He leads us into the Promised Land where we can be ourselves, not be commanded by outside forces but lead by God and His holy will himself. We are free of fear that we are short of anything, that we miss the pots of meat of Egypt.

Elijah is the image of a prophet, a man of fire. He shows us that we have a vocation to be a prophet. When we open up to God in prayer, we can understand our specific vocation. That is far more than the general, generic vocation which is for us our religious and missionary vocation. The specific vocation is mine, which means to make visible about God what no one in the world now and in all ages to come can. Each one has to say a word with her life which can be expressed only by her. In order to live this vocation, this prophetic call fruitfully we have to recognize it.

I invite you for the following exercise:

Imagine you are near to your death, two days to go. To whom would you like to write a last letter? In this letter tell this person all what you wanted to express with your whole life, what the real message of your life is. Do not be afraid of big words. It does not matter that you see you did not really live to the full what you treasured in the depth of your heart. But what was the main idea of your life? Why do you get up so early each morning? Why did I put up with all the troubles in my life? What did I want to transmit meeting any person in my life? What should the people be able to read in my eyes, my words, and my heart? What do I want to leave as last word, as my testament to my friends? What you find out in prayer with God is your specific vocation. Write this letter really and read it from time to time, so that you keep in mind what the deepest prophetic message of your life is.

In spite of the transfiguration the apostles fall asleep. That is a consolation for us. We experience the presence of God, but very soon we are not touched by it any more. We fall asleep. We live as if God does not exist. When the disciples awake and see Moses and Elijah in brilliant light, they want to get hold of the situation. Now Peter is so much on fire that he wants to get to catch the presence of God by constructing three huts. Some times God grants us our hour of Tabor. We experience the love of God; we are filled with the love of Jesus and his glory. We promise Jesus from now on we shall live differently, that we want to answer with our whole life to His love. But the next moment we forgot all about it and we sleep again. Or we begin to fear and even panic, as soon as a cloud casts its shadow on us. It is as if we never experienced God. We are afraid; do not know how to continue. Each intensive

experience of God is followed by its opposite, by the experience of evil either from outside us or from within.

All of a sudden a voice calls out from the cloud: “This is my beloved Son, listen to him” Luke 9:35. The disciples had seen the glory of Jesus. Now they have to be satisfied to hear the Word. Faith needs experience like seeing the divine reality, but faith comes from hearing as well. With the ears of our heart we have to listen to the Word of God, so that we can live on it. Like the disciples we have to come down from the mountain of transfiguration again, to walk again in the valley of our every day life. Sure enough often clouds or fog will cover the sun. But out of the cloud we can hear the voice of God: “This is my beloved Son, listen to him. His words are food for you. If you accept them with open heart, then I shall live myself within you, then you will experience that you are my beloved and blessed sons and daughters. Each word of Holy Scripture will teach you that you are beloved through and through.”

This is the background of *lectio divina* as we know it. I invite you for another exercise: *Take as lectio divina the word from the transfiguration: you are my beloved son, you are my beloved daughter. May the word fall into your heart. Try to taste it, savour it with your heart. And imagine: if this is true, if this is the reality of my life, what does that mean? What kind of feeling, emotion come up? What about my failures, my weaknesses with the background of being the beloved daughter? What about my loneliness, my sadness? Let the word sink so deeply into your heart that each bit of your body and soul is drenched with it. This is a word which frees and heals you, unlike the many other words you have interiorized: I am not worth anything; I am a burden etc. Look at each situation in your life with this word of God and love. This is a light in walking your valley of darkness and clouds. Let this word fall into the valley of fear, self-pity, sadness so that the word of God's love for you changes your valley of life. The love of God is the real reason for your life. Hopefully a deep peace will grow in your heart, trusting the Lord that you are loved, called, a pearl of great value, a treasure which has no equal on this world.*

Believe in God's word. It is nourishment for your body and soul. Not on bread alone is man to live but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. The Word of God is your companion even in the valley of every day life when a cloud covers the mountain of transfiguration, when you do not experience anything any longer of your experience in prayer. We need the faith coming from hearing the Word of God, to be ready to listen to the Word of God in times of dryness and then to follow it. May we be brought by the Word of God to the wordless mystery of God in meditation.

Questions for reflection

- What is my special vocation in this life?
- Do I understand my special vocation and try to live it with all my heart?
- Do I really believe that I am the beloved daughter of God and thank God for this grace?
- Does the Word of God lead me in my every day activities?

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Credit is given to Fr. Anselm Grün OSB, Exerzitien für den Alltag, pages 49-55