

**March 2, 2025 – Transfiguration Sunday**

***The Beauty of Silence* by Pastor Julio Romero**

**Gospel: Luke 9:28-43**

From the low plains and lands to the top of the mountain, the Gospel scenery changes quickly, from week to week and from Sunday to Sunday. Last week, the lesson was the Sermon on the Plain, and today's lesson is the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus on the top of Mount Tabor.

The way the Gospel tells the story of our Lord Jesus is with constant movement—there is never a pause or a break. This shows us that the events in His life and ministry were always filled with mystery, intensity, and action.

His provocative and challenging teachings, His powerful and amazing miracles, and His sometimes heated exchanges with Pharisees, scribes, and other religious and political figures make the narrative of Jesus' life and ministry difficult to follow or fully assimilate in one or more readings. Yet, in the end, the mystery remains.

The story of Jesus' Transfiguration is one such example. In one moment, He is praying; in the next, His physical appearance changes, and His clothes become dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appear, a cloud covers the mountain, and the voice of God is heard. Peter, James, and John find themselves in the middle of all this. They are in shock; their minds struggling to process or make sense of what's happening. Peter dares to speak, but what he says is ignored by Jesus, and everyone else remains silent.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 17, it says that at the end of that mountaintop experience, Jesus told Peter, James, and John, "*Don't tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.*"

This morning, I don't want to focus too much on the event of the Transfiguration itself—its mystery will remain a mystery. Instead, I want to focus on the "silence" and the command Jesus gave to His disciples: "*Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.*"

I mentioned earlier that the Gospel is a dynamic story. One text after another presents an element of surprise, shock, and revelation of God's love, mystery, and wisdom. As soon as Jesus descended from the mountain, there was someone to heal, new places to visit, new good news to proclaim, new miracles to perform, new hearts to

touch, and new souls to change. But the silence persisted—the command not to tell anyone was still in effect.

In all this ministry, through the sacrifices and inconveniences of moving from one place to another, seeing and feeling every day the human pain in the faces of the poor and sick, and dealing with those who were always ready to trap or arrest Him, plus the constant thought that one day they would succeed and He would die a painful and horrific death, I wonder if the question, “Is all this worth it?” ever crossed Jesus’ mind.

Among the famous painters of the French Impressionist school, Henri Matisse and August Renoir were the closest of friends. When Renoir’s health failed and doctors confined him to bed for the final decade of his life, Matisse visited him daily. Renoir, almost paralyzed by arthritis, continued to paint at his easel despite his infirmities. One afternoon, Matisse watched his friend painting, fighting through excruciating pain with each stroke of the brush. Finally, he blurted out, “August, why do you continue to paint when you’re in such agony?”

August Renoir never looked up. His eyes were fixed on the canvas with complete concentration. Then he spoke softly, “The beauty remains. The pain passes.”

This story helps me understand the sacrifices, the pain, the tears, and the agony our Lord Jesus suffered—not only on the cross but throughout His ministry. I believe that if the Lord Jesus were here today, He would say, “Yes, it was all worth it.” The love that moved Him to perform miracles, the light, wisdom, and truth in the teachings of His Gospel, and the example of forgiveness shown at His death on the cross—let me tell you, there is nothing more beautiful than that. And, like August Renoir said, “The beauty remains, the pain passes.”

You and I have been captivated by the beauty of Jesus’ love, message, and sacrifices. This is why we believe in Him, worship Him, and love Him. That beauty has remained for thousands of years and will continue to captivate people forever.

Jesus crafted that beauty in silence. He didn’t allow His disciples to reveal He was the Son of God—God in human flesh—until the entire story had been painted on the canvas of His life, death, and resurrection.

This makes me ask: What kind of beauty are we building or painting with our lives, the kind that nobody knows about? What is it, and what will be the cost of that beauty?

Is it worth sacrificing your time to care for a neighbor in need, to look after a relative who cannot take care of themselves, to mourn with those who mourn?

We've learned from our Lord Jesus that the answer to that question is "Yes." It is worth it because in every act of selfless, sacrificial love, we are creating beauty—the kind of beauty that pleases God and provides an answer to someone's need, to someone's emptiness.

The Lord Jesus suffered all that pain in silence, and the disciples never spoke of what they witnessed on the mountaintop. It was only after the resurrection that they shared that experience with the world.

Now, we proclaim that Jesus is God in human flesh. We are not silent about that, but there is one thing we should remain silent about: our good works, our good deeds. Remember what Jesus said, "*Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.*" If there is ever a time to talk about the little miracles God allows us to perform, all the glory should go to God, not to us. It is God who enables us to do good things. He is the one who should be exalted, not us. Instead, let's be thankful for all that God empowers us to do in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**