

Stewardship Sermon Starters

February, 2010

February 14, 2010
Transfiguration Sunday
Luke 9:28-36

Ted was proudly passing around a picture of his new son, held by his father, as he, Ted looked on. It was a typical three generation photo. One of those viewing the photo quipped, "What is, what was, and what will be." This was a quick-wit reference to a time from Revelation 1, but true to the image of the mountain referenced in this text.

Jesus met those who had led God's people with the law and the prophecy – Moses and Elijah. More than a doctrinal statement, we read that they talked about the departure of Jesus and what was to happen in Jerusalem. Yet this vision seemed like real human beings relating to one another. Could this be a witness to how God intends the church to be sustained? The faith being passed on from generation to generation, with the acceptance that changes will take place in the transition. As faithful followers of Jesus Christ, we are stewards of the Word and the mysteries of God – even though we may not understand some of these mysteries.

Some biblical authorities see Peter's desire to build three tabernacles as his response to the prophesied coming of an earthly king sent by God. He did not immediately understand that the incarnation of the king would bring about a different understanding of the kingdom, and how those who lived within the reign of God would have a different role. Sometimes it is difficult to see this new understanding, and yet we see different interpretations of God's word from generation to generation. How differently do we hear and understand God's word from our ancestors?

Nevertheless, God's voice is clearly proclaiming, "... listen to him!" This should point us to what is revealed in through Jesus' teaching, even if we disagree as to translations and interpretations. The Gospel within the Gospel is often summarized in John 3:16, that we love God and love our neighbor. It is this same love that was evident in the three images on the mountain that day, and the same love that is promised by the King of Kings in the world to come.