

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen listen to him!" ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. Luke 9:28-36 NRSV

Each year in Great Britain the opening of parliament begins with pomp and circumstance. The queen arrives and makes the "throne speech". While this pageantry has gone on for ages, the real purpose is for the queen to give a speech which highlights the goals of the party in power that year. When any president is inaugurated in this country the ceremony is quite impressive, but there is a purpose behind that too, since the newly elected president will set out his goals for the year.

Transfiguration Sunday is the last Sunday before the holy season of lent. It is a launching pad for Jesus as he executes the supreme work of his ministry, his death and resurrection. Most telling in Luke's account is the conversation between Moses, Elijah and Jesus. Verse 31 says that they "were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem". It is glory for "going" and "doing".

What it should tell us that perhaps when we are privileged to have a sense of God's glory, or God's presence in our lives, there very well maybe a purpose behind it. During the summer of 1980, I sang a solo at my church, so I stayed in the choir loft for the whole service. When the service ended I looked down at chancel area, and I thought I heard God's voice saying to me "John, it's time". I interpreted it as God saying it was time for me to go into the ministry. I shared that with Pam, but was really reluctant to start talking about it again since beginning the process before didn't go so well for me. But I finally knew I had to act on what I heard. I HAD TO TAKE THE STEPS, and because I made the effort, within a year I was under the care of my church, well underway with denominational process, and accepted at the seminary I really wanted to go to.

I believe all of us who are people of faith long for, and receive from God from time to time "glimpses of glory". While it may at times be an affirmation of something you need, take a second look. Perhaps it is "glory for going and doing" God's good will on this earth.

Pr. John Van Haneghan