



## Second Sunday of Lent

My great friend and eloquent scripture scholar, Steve Mueller, has a compelling take on the Transfiguration, published in the winter edition of his daily scripture journal, Words of Grace.

Echoing Fr. Richard Rohr, he says that the three disciples Peter, James, and John (often the three eyewitnesses to cornerstone events in Jesus' life) got a "peek at the really real" when Jesus was transfigured before them. In one flashing moment, they "saw" the 'normally hidden divinity embodied in Jesus blazing forth for this one tiny moment in all its dazzling beauty.'

I've had lots of moments like that. Something a beloved family member or friend says or does suddenly reveals to me the dazzling beauty of their inner spirit.

Remember Thomas Merton's famous reflection upon leaving his Trappist monastery for a medical appointment in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1958. While standing in the middle of a busy shopping district, he was overwhelmed with the realization that he was connected to all the strangers around him, even though he lived a monastic life.

"There's no way of telling people," he famously mused, "that they are all walking around shining like the sun." I absolutely believe that, and am thrilled at the many experiences I've had, and continue to have, of the radiance of the brilliance and goodness of people around me, all "shining like the sun."

But why did this moment cause such fear in the disciples? I wonder if they, utterly immersed in the Hebrew scriptures, trembled because they remembered that Moses' face was radiant when he encountered God. Were they actually encountering God? And what did that mean for their own lives? Now that's something that causes me to tremble.

*In what ways have you encountered God through people "shining like the sun"?*

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