

Day 7: Friday, June 27

“When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.” (Matthew 17:8 NIV)

When Jesus took Peter, James, and John up on the mountain, He revealed Himself to them in a way that no one had ever seen. He was transfigured right before their eyes. They fell facedown to the ground when they heard the voice of God say, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” The memory of this image and that voice would remain with them for the rest of their lives.

We are singing a beautiful arrangement of the hymn, “Be Thou My Vision” this week. This hymn’s origin is veiled in the misty past of ancient Ireland. We do know that the hymn sprang from a poem that is more than a thousand years old. All we know is that the writer certainly was a poet and sure seems to have been a saint.

The lyrics begin as a prayer for God to enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we may be filled with his hope. Listen to how beautifully the lyrics convey the biblical metaphor of *light as understanding*:

*Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.*

Everyone who has known deep darkness of any kind — the darkness of sin or grief or pain or depression or loneliness or spiritual oppression — and has seen, however dimly, the Light of Christ shining in their darkness, understands how meaningful this verse can be. It resonates with the hope that *this* light will not ultimately be overcome by our darkness.

In the scripture quoted for today, Matthew says that when Peter, James, and John arose from the ground, “*they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.*”

In our darkest moments, may our vision be focused on the one source of light that can be trusted.

Food for Thought – “The greatest gift God ever gave man is not the gift of sight but the gift of vision.”