

Homily for 2nd Sunday of Lent B

In almost every area of life things must be tested before there can be of any benefit to the human race. Medicine is tested before it is made available to the public. Airplanes are tested for safety before its takes passengers. Everything we see around is tested for its purposes. Now, we are God's people, called by Him for a divine purpose. Therefore God tests our faith to prepare us for his purposes. One thing is certain. For Peter, James and John, after what they experienced on that mountain, everything was changed. For Abraham, after what he experienced on another mountain, everything was changed. One was an experience of glory. The other was a test. Abraham's total commitment to God, which began over forty years earlier, was his response to God's total commitment to him. God chose him, guided him, defended him, made and kept generous promises to him. Abraham believed then, and did not stop believing now. What is faith that is never challenged? In a way, it's like dancers or athletes whose skill has never been put to the test. They may be good, even very good, but not great, certainly not magnificent. Considering that St. Peter witnessed the Transfiguration of Jesus, and yet his faith faltered in his time of testing, I am not eager that my faith should be put to the test. But when it is, I pray that the gift of faith that the Lord has nourished these many years—including my own Transfiguration moments—may not falter, but rather look only to him in whom that faith is placed, and rely on him absolutely. Can it be? Dare we hope that our own faith could actually be magnificent?

HOW GOD TESTS OUR FAITH? 1. God tests our faith through trials. James 1:12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. Our trials are a test from God. Nothing happens by accident for a disciple of Jesus Christ. Every of your trouble is custom made to mature you for glory. Now our trials are portrayed in the Bible as a furnace. *An old silversmith was once asked, "How do you know when the impurities are burned away in the silver?" He said, "When I can see my reflection in the silver."* When we go through the furnace of affliction and when God takes away all our impurities, we become like Christ, Christ minded. That is why God takes us through trials. **2. God tests our faith through demands.** – Sometimes it is a demand through the Word of God, sometimes it is a personal demand.

3. God tests our faith with our wealth. For many people finances are the greatest of all. They have no idea that God is actually testing them with their money. See there is a direct connection with how you handle your money and your spiritual life. In fact Jesus says if I'm not faithful in handling material wealth He will not trust me with spiritual wealth. **4. God tests our faith through delays.** Our delays are tests from God. Some of you are waiting on something right now. Maybe you've been waiting a long time – Waiting for your marriage, waiting for a child, waiting for a drunkard husband to be sober, waiting for your family members to come to faith, waiting for a job etc. Understand you are going through a test. See what happens when we wait: Isaiah 64:4 "God acts on behalf of those who wait for Him." It pays to be patient. Just remember this: while you are waiting God is working. You're not waiting alone. God is doing things behind the scenes that you cannot even see. So if I'm really going to grow in faith I have to wait patiently. O Lord test me and know me.