

Feast of the Transfiguration

6/8/26

We resist the manifestation of 'glory' as much in ourselves as in others. We're comfortable in the shadowlands, the humdrum, things and people in their proper place. Or, in the words of Michael Casey:

There is something in us that does not want to keep adapting to changing circumstances and wants everything to be left pretty much as it was. To make this false stability possible, we erect vast defensive networks. In this way, we hope to prevent our being compelled to modify anything.

(Fully Human, Fully Divine. p150)

In this way Peter hopes to contain the 'glory' that briefly manifests itself on the mountain: symbolic of Israel's forever resistance to change and significant of the true nature of all people crying out for recognition. Christ is not as he seems, and nor are we. What Christ is inviting Peter and the other apostles to do is to allow this same transformation to take place in them as it has in him. It's an invitation into '*an apprenticeship under grace*' (in the words of Michael Casey once again). It's not to inhabit another world, simply a world to come or an ideal to strive for, but to inhabit this world as it is, 'charged with the glory of God', not least in one another. It's to see others in this transformative light: not the dull, irritating neighbours we could well do without, but ciphers of a world in which every atom speaks of God. This is hard to imagine, hence the need for grace, for moments of 'glory' yes suddenly revealed to us, but better still revealed to us through the hard work of faith, hope and love. Trust the process of discipleship and 'glory' comes in the most surprising of people, not least ourselves.

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