

**Listen**

**In our heart of hearts**

**Who or what are we listening to?**

**I know we all hear the word of God**

**We all hear Sacred Scripture**

**But are we listening?**

**Because these are not the same thing**

**Adam and Eve heard God speaking with them**

**But they listened to Satan**

**Cain heard God speaking**

**But he listened to Satan**

**Except for Noah and his family**

**The people at the time of the flood refused to listen to God**

**When the people of Babble built their tower**

**They were listening to themselves**

**Not God**

**In our first reading today**

**The people of God are hearing**

**But not listening**

**So God has a special invitation for Abram**

**Abram was a very successful man**

**An elder among his people**

**Respected**

**Wealthy**

**Set in his life**

**In the midst of this setting**

**Abram not only hears the invitation**

**The voice of God**

**But he listens**

***Leave the land of your ancestors***

***I will show you where you are to go***

**And he is given a promise**

***I will make of you great nation***

***I will bless you***

***I will make your name great***

***I will bless those that bless you***

***I will curse those that curse you***

**These are the promises made**

**God desires a new start with his people**

**And in a response similar to Mary's response to the angel**

**Abram leaves behind his plans**

**His place in the world**

**He listens and follows**

**For this he is our father in faith even today**

No longer Abram and Sari  
But Abraham and Sarah  
Their descendants are Jesus' ancestors  
And like Abram  
Jesus' disciples have to learn how to listen  
They know there is something special about this man they are with  
But they don't know everything  
They have heard him speak  
But do they really listen?  
So Jesus takes his 3 closest disciples with him  
Up a mountain by themselves  
Where Jesus reveals who he is  
In his transfiguration they begin to learn how to listen  
But not all at once  
First, Jesus is transfigured  
His face shining like the sun  
His cloths white as light  
He is offering a glimpse of his glory  
So when he suffers and dies  
They will know there is more  
When their human senses fail  
They will rely on their spiritual senses

**So they will not only hear him speak**

**But begin to listen**

**Then, he is there with Moses and Elijah**

**The law and the prophet**

**Conversing with Jesus**

**They hear them speaking**

**But it goes no deeper**

**They think they are there only for themselves**

***Lord, it is good we are here***

***We will build 3 tents***

**What he is really saying is**

**We will do this so we can stay here**

**We don't need to go back to the others**

**But while he is still speaking**

**A cloud covers them**

**And a voice**

***This is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased***

***Listen to him***

**Now they are beginning to learn to listen**

**They fall prostrate and are afraid**

**Then Jesus touches them**

**Rise up, and do not be afraid**

**He is back with them in his humanity**

**But he knows that they are still learning to listen**

**So he tells them**

***Do not tell the vision to anyone***

***Until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead***

**The resurrection is the event that will open their hearts as well  
as their ears**

**Then they will have learned to listen**

**This is another reason for this time of Lent**

**There is so much that demands our attention**

**So many voices to hear**

**And many times we find ourselves listening to the wrong voice**

**In our Office of Readings today**

**We read from the Pastoral Constitution on the Church**

**This is a document from the Second Vatican Council**

**It tells of many things in the world that can grab our attention**

**How we can fail to listen to the voice of God**

**And listen to our own inner voice**

**We can find ourselves following our ego**

**And not God's Word**

**There are tensions in the world that reflect the tensions in the  
human heart**

**We can achieve the best and the worst of humanity**

**We can seek freedom or slavery**

**We are limited**

**But our aspirations are limitless**

**Which voice do we listen to?**

**Do we seek a materialistic way of life?**

**Do we seek the promises of a godless philosophy?**

**Do we think we can be saved by human efforts alone?**

**Even in our faith life**

**There are so many demands that the Church change**

**Change the teaching on whatever is my personal favorite**

**Change the liturgy**

**Make it more relevant to me**

**Do we think the Church is here to serve me?**

**Or am I here to serve God through serving His people?**

**Do we despair of any meaning in life?**

**Here today; gone tomorrow**

**The great questions of human history are still there**

**For each generation, each person to struggle with**

**What is the meaning of pain and suffering?**

**Why is there evil in the world?**

**Why am I here?**

**Why is there anything at all, rather than nothing?**

**It is our belief that there is meaning**

**There is a purpose**

**And that meaning and purpose is not about following our own ego**

**It is not about following the voice of the world**

**It is wrapped up in our Gospel reading today**

**The transfiguration of Jesus Christ is our destiny**

**Christ; the same yesterday, today and forever**

**This is the certainty that is the foundation of our faith lives**

**Things may change**

**But Christ does not**

**The voice of the world is enticing**

**But it does not last**

**We can have a new beginning in Christ**

**No matter where we have been**

**What we may have done or not done**

**His invitation of divine blessing is for us**

**We are strengthened for our trials as we glimpse our future glory**

**In the transfiguration of our Christ**

**When we choose Christ**

**When we listen to the invitation before us**

**Our true destiny is set before us**

**So we have this special season of Lent**

**To quiet the voice of the world**

**To place aside the trappings of the world**

**To hear not only the spoken word**

**But listen to the word deep in our hearts**

**To walk with Christ in the wilderness**

**To leave the things of the world behind**

**And grasp firmly to the things of eternity**