

It was good for them to be there. To gaze upon Jesus in his glory was an experience well worth coveting. One of the famous pictures of the world is Raphael's picture of the Transfiguration. He spent a long time over it, and it is said to have been his last picture. Indeed, it was scarcely finished when the great artist died. While he was sick, he had the picture hung in his sight, as if desiring that his constant thought might be of the glorified Saviour.

"O Master, it is good to be

Entranced, enwrapped, along with thee ;

Till we, too, change from grace to grace,

Gazing on that transfigured face."

3. The vision faded, but Jesus remained.

Looking around, the three disciples saw no one any more save Jesus only with themselves. And he was more to them than any vision, no matter how resplendent it might be. It is just possible that these men might have become so absorbed in the vision as to forget Jesus. And so the vision fades, but Jesus remains. It can always be so, if we desire it to be so. When the vision of an earthly friendship dies away, we can still count upon him who calls us no longer servants, but friends. When our loved ones depart, we can still have him, who is the resurrection and the life. When wealth fails, we can still possess the unsearchable riches of Christ. One of the saddest facts of life is the common failure of our dearest plans. But when they fail, we still have Christ from whom nor life nor death nor height nor depth can separate us.

4. The three disciples were to cherish this vision as a blessed secret in their hearts. It

was to be enshrined there as a memory. Carlyle, an old man, looking back upon a most happy week which he had once had, said of it : "In my whole life I can recollect no week so like a Sabbath as that had been to me,—clear, peaceful, mournfully beautiful, and—as if sacred." It is well for us to cherish such memories. They will help us over many a rough place in life. They will help to illustrate Paul's saying that experience worketh hope. The memory of some time when God seemed very near to us will help us in the day when he seems to hide his face. The memory of some time when we fought a hard fight against temptation, and by God's help overcame, will help us when we face another struggle with the tempter.

5. Jesus and his three disciples could not stay upon the mount of Transfiguration, delightful as such a prospect seemed to Peter. They could not stay because pressing duties remained to be done at the mountain's foot. To have neglected these would have been to be untrue to the vision. In one of Longfellow's poems he tells us of the monk who had been longing for a vision of Jesus. At length, one day, the vision came, and flooded all the room with its glory. But while he was gazing upon it, the convent bell rang the hour when it was his duty to go out to feed the poor. He hesitated, but duty drew him on, and he left the vision for the task. He fed the poor and then returned to find the vision still there, and the divine voice told him that had he stayed the vision would have disappeared. Our visions should be inspirations for our tasks.

FOR TEACHERS IN THE SENIOR AND ADULT DEPARTMENTS

Last week we saw that it was only after the confession of Peter, that Jesus could go on to reveal to the disciples the tragic end which awaited him. Now a week elapses, a week of silence. What was going on in the minds of the disciples during that week? Especially in the minds of such men as Peter, James and John, who were likely to be most strongly affected by the words of Jesus in regard to his death? Were they trying to adjust themselves to the new situation? At any rate, we have the record to-day of an incident which would be of great assistance to them

in strengthening their faith in the triumph of Christ, even in spite of such a discouraging revelation as he had made.

1. *The vision on the mount*, vs. 2-8. Do not fail to remind the class of the significant fact told by Luke in ch. 9 : 28, 29. Does the class see any connection between the vision and the fact that Jesus had been praying? Say a word or two about the place of prayer in the life of Jesus. What need was there for it in his case? What rewards came to him through it? Was Jesus' purpose in going up into the mountain to be transfigured as he