

A Tourist or a Citizen?

Today's readings remind us that **we are all tourists on earth!** Our true home is **heaven**. But the problem is, we sometimes **act like we're permanent residents of this world**, investing in things that will pass away instead of preparing for eternity.

I. Abraham's Covenant: Trusting God's Promise (Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18)

Imagine this: Abraham is an old man, childless, yet God tells him:

"Look up at the sky and count the stars—if you can! So shall your descendants be." (Genesis 15:5)

St. Augustine explains: "Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of faith is to see what we believe." (Sermon 126)

We often doubt God's promises (especially when we don't see results). But faith means trusting before the answer comes.

We want God to work like **Amazon Prime**—delivering blessings **fast, with tracking numbers!** But God works **on His time**, not ours! So **trust, wait, and keep walking in faith!**

II. The Psalm: Trusting in the Lord's Light (Psalm 27:1, 7-9, 13-14)

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" (Psalm 27:1)

This is a Psalm of **confidence**. Anxiety and fear take over when we focus on our problems instead of God. Faith does not eliminate fear, but it overcomes it!

III. Paul: Our Citizenship is in Heaven (Philippians 3:17-4:1)

Paul reminds us: "Our citizenship is in heaven." (Phil 3:20)

This means we are **not permanent residents here**—we are **tourists on earth, but citizens of heaven!**

Many say: "I believe in God, but I live how I want." But that's like saying, "I'm an American citizen, but I ignore American laws." Citizenship comes with responsibilities.

It's like **going on vacation and spending all your money decorating the hotel room**. Why? **You're leaving soon!** Don't waste your life on what **won't last**.

IV. The Transfiguration: A Heavenly Trailer (Luke 9:28-36)

Peter, being Peter, says: "Let's build three tents!" (Luke 9:33)

Translation: **"Jesus, let's stay here forever! This place is awesome!"**

St. Jerome says: “The Transfiguration was given so that the apostles might not lose faith at the sight of the crucifixion.” (*Commentary on Luke*)

V. Why Does This Matter?

The Transfiguration teaches us:

1. **Heaven is real** – The glory of Christ is our destiny.
2. **We must listen to Jesus** – God didn’t say, “*Listen to Moses,*” or “*Listen to Elijah.*” He said: “**Listen to Him!**”
3. **We can’t stay on the mountain** – We must go back to **real life, transformed.**

Don’t Pitch Your Tent on Earth!

Lent is about refocusing. Some people live as if **earth is their final home**—like tourists who decide never to return. But **Paul reminds us that our citizenship is in heaven.**

So here’s the question:

- Are you **following Jesus** or just admiring Him from a distance?

Let’s **not pitch our tent on earth** but **prepare for our true homeland—heaven!**

Final Thought: Your Flight is Boarding Soon!

Imagine getting to the **airport of heaven** and realizing you spent **your whole life decorating the waiting room instead of preparing for the destination!**

Don’t let that be you! **Start packing for eternity now.**

Amen!