

The Transfiguration

—St. James

John and I were very upset with the Samaritans. They had refused to have Jesus come to their town on His way to Jerusalem. This meant that we would need to take a longer route to Jerusalem. Being upset, we asked Jesus if He would like us to teach the Samaritans a lesson by calling down fire from heaven to consume them. I realized before Jesus began to rebuke us, that we had crossed the line.

We knew instantly what Peter must have felt like when we were on the mountain just days before. Both John and I were frozen with fear when we saw Jesus glowing. We thought we were dreaming and couldn't believe we were watching Him speak with Moses and Elijah. However, when the cloud covered us and we heard the voice we were very much afraid. Then all of a sudden we saw Jesus alone.

It is amazing to think that after witnessing the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain we could utter something so stupid about the Samaritans. It goes to show how weak we really are and if we forget Jesus is truly God we can begin desiring to use His power for earthly things.

The Institution of the Eucharist —Judas

They were all questioning Him, "is it I Lord". I was afraid of giving myself away so I asked Him, "is it I master". I could no longer call Him "Lord" after the episode in Capernaum with His discourse about being the "bread come down from Heaven". I stayed on with Him hoping that He would be the one to lead us to victory over the empire. His words were always beautiful but they were not what I wanted to hear. I decided it would be better if He were out of the way.

His show in the Temple was bad. Everyone knew He was right but no one wanted to hear it. It was easier to let things continue and focus on overthrowing Rome. He didn't seem to mind when that woman wasted all that oil that could have been used to buy weapons but I still kept hope until this "Passover".

When He washed everyone's feet I knew that He was not the one we were waiting on. Then, to make matters worse, He took bread, blessed it, and broke it and gave it to all of us saying, "take, eat, this is my body", and then likewise with the cup of wine. I took the bread and immediately left the upper room. As I walked toward the Temple to retrieve the guards I echoed the words of the teachers that day in Capernaum, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?"

The Luminous Mysteries as seen by Various People



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Meditations from the book—

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The Baptism of Jesus

—St. Andrew

I had been going to listen to John for a few months. I listened every time I had a free moment. My brother thought I was crazy and couldn't understand why anyone would listen to a crazy preacher instead of fishing.

John had been preaching about repentance for as long as anyone could remember. He had also been preaching about this person who was to come after him yet this person was before him. The story didn't make much sense at the time.

I was there when John baptized Jesus. John was standing in the Jordan as usual with the water flowing just above his knees. He was quite a sight with the camel hair cloak and long beard blowing in the wind. It reminded me of Moses preparing to part the Red Sea.

As Jesus approached, time appeared to stand still. The sky was clear and there was not a sound to be heard. The river looked like glass with John frozen in its midst. Then I heard John say in a voice that seemed to echo throughout creation, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world". Jesus entered the river and was baptized by John. My friend and I decided to follow Jesus to find where He was staying. He noticed us following and recognized us from the river and said, "come, and see".

The Wedding at Cana

- A Servant

It looked like disaster. The feast had just begun when the wine began to disappear. Jesus' mother noticed my distress and pulled me aside and I explained the situation. She motioned to Jesus and He came and joined in the discussion. After a few moments, He instructed me to fill the jars of purification with water. I did not question His instructions because I was desperate and wanted to keep my job. He then told me to take some of the water to my boss.

I simply stood there for a moment with my mouth open. I thought He was going to help me in some way but now I realized He was sending me to the unemployment line. I dipped a pitcher in the water but I never took my eyes off of Him. I couldn't believe what He was asking me to do. Another servant and I walked slowly toward the head-waiter. As I handed him the pitcher I began to ponder where I might be working next. I felt myself becoming angry with Jesus and set my mind to tell Him what I thought of Him when I had the chance. The head-waiter tasted the wine, smacking his lips, and then walked toward the bridegroom. I looked down into the pitcher for the first time. It was filled with fragrant wine. I turned to look at Jesus but He was speaking with His friends. I looked at His mother and she smiled and then quickly turned away.

The Proclamation of the Kingdom —A Leper

I had heard of Jesus but had not had the opportunity to hear Him speak. From a distance I could see the multitudes streaming toward the hillside where He was waiting. I was determined to move closer but fear held me at a distance from the people. I gathered as many articles of clothing as I could find and covered myself completely and moved slowly among the crowd.

His voice carried above the crowd. My heart burned within me as He spoke blessings that seemed to be for me alone. I was poor, hungry, sick, and people reviled me but His words wiped all my pain and bitterness away. I too like the birds of the air had always been provided for somehow all these years. He helped me to see all my blessings.

When He finished speaking many people went home while others tried to speak with Him. I stayed in my spot with my head down so I would not be noticed. A short time later two sandals appeared on the ground before me and I knew in my heart it was Him! I fell on my face saying, "Lord, if you will it, you can make me clean". He simply replied, "I do will it, be made clean". My face was still buried in the grass with tears rolling down my face as He walked away.