

Sermon 2010 Transfiguration
February 14, 2010
Text: Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Theme: Eyes Undimmed

There's nothing like a view from up high. I love going to tall buildings and standing on the observation deck or marveling at the view from 4th of July Pass in the Rocky Mountains. A little girl was on a cruise ship with her parents, and as they were looking out over the deck, the girl said to her father, "Look Daddy, I can see farther than my eyes can see." When God took Moses up on Mount Nebo, he said to him, "I have let you see it with your eyes", and Moses was able to see farther than his eyes could see.

What a life Moses had with the people of God. He led two million people out of Egypt, away from a life of captivity and slavery. He led them to freedom. But while they celebrated their newfound freedom on the banks of the Red Sea, that spirit of celebration didn't last long. It wasn't long before they started to grumble and complain. There's nothing to eat. There's nothing to drink. Why has the Lord brought us here? Can't we go back?

Before Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments, he instructed the people to wash themselves and prepare to be in the presence of God. But when Moses came back down

the mountain, he saw the people dancing and singing in praise to a golden calf. Like many preachers, Moses saw the people of God at their best and at their worst.

One of the reasons that I insist on welcoming you to the Lord's Table and dismissing you from the Lord's Table is because it is then that I see you, my people, face to face. And like Moses, I have seen many of you at your best and at your worst. But at the Lord's Table I see holy children of God kneeling to receive the gift of forgiveness. As I look at you, I see the good gifts God has given to you. I see the things you eagerly do out of love for your Lord and for others. I see your struggles and your pain, your grief and your sorrow, your weaknesses and your failings. At that moment, I see your best and your worst and sometimes I feel like I can see farther than my eyes can see because I see beyond your life today and wonder what amazing things the Lord will do with the gifts he has given you.

What is your potential? What will the Lord accomplish through you in the next 100 years? What kinds of amazing things will we look back at and wonder how we did that?

When the Lord took Moses up on top of Mount Nebo that day, it was as if he were reminding Moses of the potential of his people. He

was showing Moses all that he longed to do in the lives of his people. Moses was about to die but God gave him the gift seeing farther than his eyes could see. Moses, 120 years old, saw the amazing future.

120 years old, but his eyes were undimmed. He saw that day all that the Lord would do and he, in fact, he was there again when Jesus began the final phase of the project. When Jesus went up on the Mount of Transfiguration, Moses joins him and so bookends the work of God. Moses was there to see the people of God about to enter the physical Promised Land which God gave as a sign for the Promised Land yet to come and Moses was there to see the people about to be welcomed into the eternal Promised Land through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

We are right on the threshold of Lent, we will soon be walking through some of the dark, dreary days with our Lord. Jesus' words to Peter were right, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed." But, like Moses, our eyes are undimmed. Fed by Baptismal waters and the Body and Blood of Christ, we see farther than our eyes can see! We move through the season of Lent with Epiphany knowledge of the Christ who has been revealed to us. We confess our sins and journey with Christ to the cross where those sins were paid for and we anticipate

Easter joy with our eyes undimmed. For Easter encourages us still to look further where we will see our own resurrection. Today, you and I read about Moses, but on that day, you and I will stand with Moses; Moses and all who have gone before us. AMEN