

For my parent's wedding anniversary, we had all those reel to reel tapes converted to DVD with elevator like music playing in the background. We decided we would watch them over at my younger brother's place, whose three young children joined us. We howled aloud looking at these old memories, but my brother's youngest son, Hayden, was not too pleased as we were now infringing upon his sacred time: *Sponge Bob*. He then began to plead with his parents, finally saying, "*It's getting a bit late, shouldn't they be getting home now?*"

Jesus managed to take the old reel to reels of Old Testament stars, Moses and Elijah, and transforms them onto the DVD of the New Covenant. The gospel we heard really is somewhat like a movie that flashes back and forth in time. Flash back to Mt. Sinai, where Moses met with God and came away with a luminous face radiating the presence of God. Zip fwd to the present and it is now Jesus who radiates. It is he who now takes the place of Moses and the Law.

Yes, God has spliced all of them into the same movie, as we are told Jesus converses with them about the Exodus, a flashback to the Israelite Exodus from slavery in Egypt to the Promise Land. In Promise Land, part 2, we zip to the future, in which Jesus will lead humanity in an exodus from the slavery of sin and death to the Promise Land of Eternal life.

Have you ever been watching television and then the picture goes all snowy, but you still hear the voices? That is what happens in the gospel, for the vision clouds over and all you hear is a voice: "*Listen to him,*" and when the cloud disperses, Jesus is found alone on the screen. The meaning is clear: the Law and the Prophets now converge in the one figure of Jesus

We could also see this entire gospel passage as one of those movie previews - because none of what he showed them had taken place at that time - it was a preview of things to come. Though this was a bit different than most previews – the previews we see on TV entice us to purchase a ticket and see how it all turns out. Jesus does so, as well, but he gives also gives away the ending!

+The winter Olympics take me back to the days of the Soviet Union and when the US hokey team was in a show-down with them to get to the gold round. I avoided hearing how it turned out, because it was going to be on tape-delay later that night. Well, my sister comes home and I am sitting on the porch with a friend and she blurts out: "*Did you hear the US beat the Russians!*" I was none too happy, but it certainly made watching the game *more enjoyable knowing we won*.

That is what Jesus did in this gospel preview – he showed us *who won in the end and knowing this makes life a whole lot more enjoyable*. Of course, to share in this victory, we are told we must *listen to him*.

We are told that prior to this resurrection pre-view, the disciples had fallen asleep. Still happens today, as many continue to fall asleep in their faith and fail to understand what God is trying to show them about a life in the future with God.

Aside from our sleepy moments, why is it so many fail to see the God who surrounds us as He did Peter and the disciples?

*I read an article dealing just with this, as the author proposes the reason may be because we define reality as something that can only be experienced through the senses and thus holds no dimensions of mystery beyond the experiential.

We struggle with doubt because we cannot picture God's existence in our empirical ways – we can't picture God in the ways we're used to nailing down most everything else.

That was the mistake of Peter – he tried to nail God as one might do with material of this world (his tents), to fit his vision of what matches his reality. He, in short, tried to domesticate God.

Karl Rahner said that we are just discovering today that one cannot picture God to oneself in an image that has been carved out of the wood of the world...the discovery that the world is not God.

+The writer noted that many people no longer genuflect as they enter and leave their pews because people are simply less aware of God's presence on a conscious level. It would not occur to them to genuflect to what they can no longer see.

The reason is that in western cultures we have a much reduced experience of God- God is present to us, but we are no longer present to God because of our pragmatic mindset.

+It is like a weight lifter who has over developed certain muscles to the detriment of others. We have over focused on one to the detriment of another. People of the past were able to look at reality and experience wonder; while many today experience only the pragmatic dimension of life.

+For example, I have horses and many (innocently) ask if I ride them much (they are very old)? I respond, "*No, I just enjoy being with them. I enjoy just the wonder and majesty that they carry in their presence.*" "*Then why have them you don't use them?*" - comes the reply of the world.

When we can begin to experience a sense of *wonder* and stop constructing *only* empirical tents of reality it is then we will begin to see God all around us.

When we are no longer wonder how, but *at* - it is then that the door to invisible begins and God is perceived beyond the constraints of our world.

It is to bring forth sheer enjoyment of beauty without the urge to possess it, manipulate it, or assimilate it, dampening the pragmatic urge. It simply means to restore the instinct for astonishment.

+I mentioned the following at our reconciliation service last year. I was in an airport and everyone had on those grim faces that adults sometimes wear. Well there was this young mother with her little girl, who was so full of life she just couldn't hold it in anymore and she then burst forth into several cartwheels, transforming our grim faces into smiles.

Was God, through this little girl, trying to give us a glimpse of how it all ends, when we listen for him? Think back. When was it we stopped doing cartwheels?

We struggle with faith because the world of computers, cell phones, steel and concrete is not God. God is life, light, love, energy, vastness, and simplicity beyond our categories and yet surrounds us, present forever before us!

Step out of the world and take time to see and to listen to the wonder of it all. It is then the cloud of our world will disappear and there we will be alone with Jesus. It is in those moments that he gives us a glimpse of how it all ends and knowing this makes life a whole lot easier to live.