

WEEKLY MEDITATION

Through the fall our nature was stripped of divine illumination and resplendence. But the Word of God had pity upon our disfigurement and in His compassion He took our nature upon Himself, and on Mount Tabor He manifested it to His elect disciples clothed once again most brilliantly. He shows what we once were and what we shall become through Him in the age to come, if we choose to live our present life as far as possible in accordance with His ways. - St. Gregory Palamas

St. Gregory writes: *If we choose to live our present life as far as possible in accordance with His ways.*

We must choose, and choose each moment, to live in accordance with His ways, that is, according to the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ. But note that the urgency of choosing to follow the Lord and manifest this in our lives is generously balanced by the phrase *as far as possible*. Nothing impossible is being asked of us, nothing beyond our ability, only that we strive as much as possible. It is the desire, the striving, the attitude, the orientation, that is all important. Success is measured by the intention, and perseverance. May our lent be marked by such a desire!

Last Sunday - the first Sunday of Lent - offered us a reading from the Gospel at the Divine Liturgy about the calling of the disciples. The Great Fast is a season when we are especially mindful of being disciples. We are not to be just followers needing guidelines and rules, but true students of the Lord, seeking to know Him and to do His will. Christian discipleship and our lenten journey is about knowing the Lord, and following His ways, to try to bring every decision and action in our lives into submission to Him, also that we may taste in this age the glory of the Kingdom which is to come.

Fr. Andrew

