

There is a story about a man who was on trial for murder. It was an interesting case with a lot of circumstantial evidence. The man's defense lawyer thought of an interesting argument to use during his closing statements. He said, "Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, you must find my client not guilty of murder if there is the slightest doubt in your minds that he is not the murderer. And now I want to introduce one final witness. The true murderer is about to walk through the door."

All eyes turned towards the door but no one came in. The lawyer continued: "You see, ladies and gentlemen, there is doubt in your minds, otherwise you would not have looked towards the door."

The jury retired to deliberate and came back five hours later with a "Guilty" verdict. The lawyer was beside himself and before the judge could pass sentence he sprang up and said "But I proved that you had a doubt about my client's guilt. How can you possibly find him guilty?"

An old, wise man in the jury stood up and said: "As everyone looked towards the door, I watched your client. His eyes did not turn towards the door. He did not look towards the door because he knew no one was coming through since he himself was the guilty."

In contrast to that story where the star witness did not appear, this morning's gospel reading is all about a star witness who did appear. This witness came to answer the question that was on everyone's lips: "Who is Jesus?"

Who was this star witness? It was none other than God the Father, who answered the question by revealing Jesus' glory to Peter, James and John by saying: "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"

Jesus is God's Son and we need to listen to him. This statement by God answered a question that was on everyone's mind. People were wondering who Jesus was. If the National Enquire would have been around at that time, Jesus would have been on the front cover of every issue. People were guessing at who he really was. They had listened to his teaching and witnessed his miracles. They knew he was special, but was he really the Son of God? God answered the questions that yes, Jesus is God's Son.

In answering this question of who is Jesus, God revealed Jesus in his full glory. Jesus' face shone like the sun and his clothes became dazzling white. This gave the disciples a small glimpse of who Jesus truly was.

But God doesn't stop there because he also tells Peter, James and John to listen to him. God wanted them to actually listen to what Jesus had to say.

But is that command relevant for us today? The Father's final three words to the disciples were listen to Jesus. Listen to Jesus.

Jesus made some outstanding claims. For example, in John 14:6, he said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Jesus is the only way to heaven. If you are saved, you are saved through Jesus the Christ. There is no other way to God than through Jesus. We don't have rules and regulations to keep to get to heaven. It is not a matter of being good. Rather it is a matter of coming through Christ because he is the one who died and rose again for you.

The question that we need to answer next is: Who do you think Jesus is? If you believe what God the Father said, then the challenge is, are we prepared to listen to what Jesus has to say to us?

Before ascending to heaven, Jesus commanded the disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and to teach them all that I have taught you.

Are we willing to do that? When we talk of listening to Jesus, isn't it amazing how it all seems to keep coming back around to sharing our faith so that others might have an opportunity to experience God?

Are you willing to listen? Do you believe that Jesus is God the Father's son? And are you willing to witness by living out your faith in the ONE who created you, the ONE who saved you and the ONE who sustains you?