SUMMARY:

Following Jesus is not a half-hearted "I'm in." It is surrendering our expectations to His design.

This week challenges us to release the version of faith we've imagined and trust the glory God wants to reveal — even when it unfolds differently than we expected.

RELATED SCRIPTURES:

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4

> *"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk…"*
> Faith requires movement before clarity.

Second Reading: 2Timothy 1:8-10

> *"He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to His own design…"*
> Grace is a gift, not achievement.

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

> *"This is my beloved Son… listen to Him."*
> The mountain reveals glory. The valley tests faith.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. What expectations have I placed on God that may not align with His plan?
2. Have I ever experienced a "mountaintop" moment in faith — and then struggled when life returned to normal?
3. Where might God be calling me to leave familiarity behind, like Abraham?
4. When things don't unfold the way I envision, do I remain faithful or become discouraged?
5. What would it look like to trust God's grace instead of trying to earn His approval?

Not for any other use |©2026 LMBM Inc. & Greg Wasinski | All Rights Reserved | **WWW.FAITHANDREALLIFE.COM**

“LETTING GO” – LENT SECOND SUNDAY

OVERVIEW

Last week, we confronted control. - This week, we confront expectations.

In Genesis, Abraham is promised land, but not in the way he likely envisioned it. He becomes a stranger in lands not fully his own. Yet his faithfulness remains fixed not on earthly ownership but on the heavenly Kingdom.

In the second reading, Paul reminds Timothy that grace is not earned through effort. It is given through God’s design. We are called to holiness — not by our works, but by His grace.

Then comes the mountain. Why the mountain?

In the Gospel of the Transfiguration, Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up to the summit. There, His glory is revealed. Just as Moses ascended a mountain and was enveloped in a cloud to receive the Law, Jesus reveals Himself as the Living Word before the cloud descends. But notice what happens. At first, Peter wants to stay. Build tents. Capture the moment. Control it. Then the cloud comes, and fear sets in. They experienced glory… but when it no longer looked the way they expected, uncertainty followed.

This is us. God brings us to mountaintop moments to reveal what is possible. Then He sends us back into the valley to live it.

Lent is a time to let go of human expectations for divine glory that never disappears.

WEEKLY COMMITMENT:

This week, I will let go of this expectation:

Instead, I will trust God by:

(Example: Let go of needing immediate results → Replace with patient prayer.)
(Let go of controlling how faith “should” feel → Replace with daily listening to Scripture.)

SPIRITUAL WARFARE REMINDER

The enemy doesn’t just tempt us with obvious sin — he tempts us with distorted expectations.

“If God were really working, it would look different.” “If this were real, it would feel better.”

Mountaintop moments are gift, but faith is forged in the valley.
Hold onto what God revealed, even when the cloud rolls in.

Not for any other use |©2026 LMBM Inc. & Greg Wasinski | All Rights Reserved | **WWW.FAITHANDREALLIFE.COM**