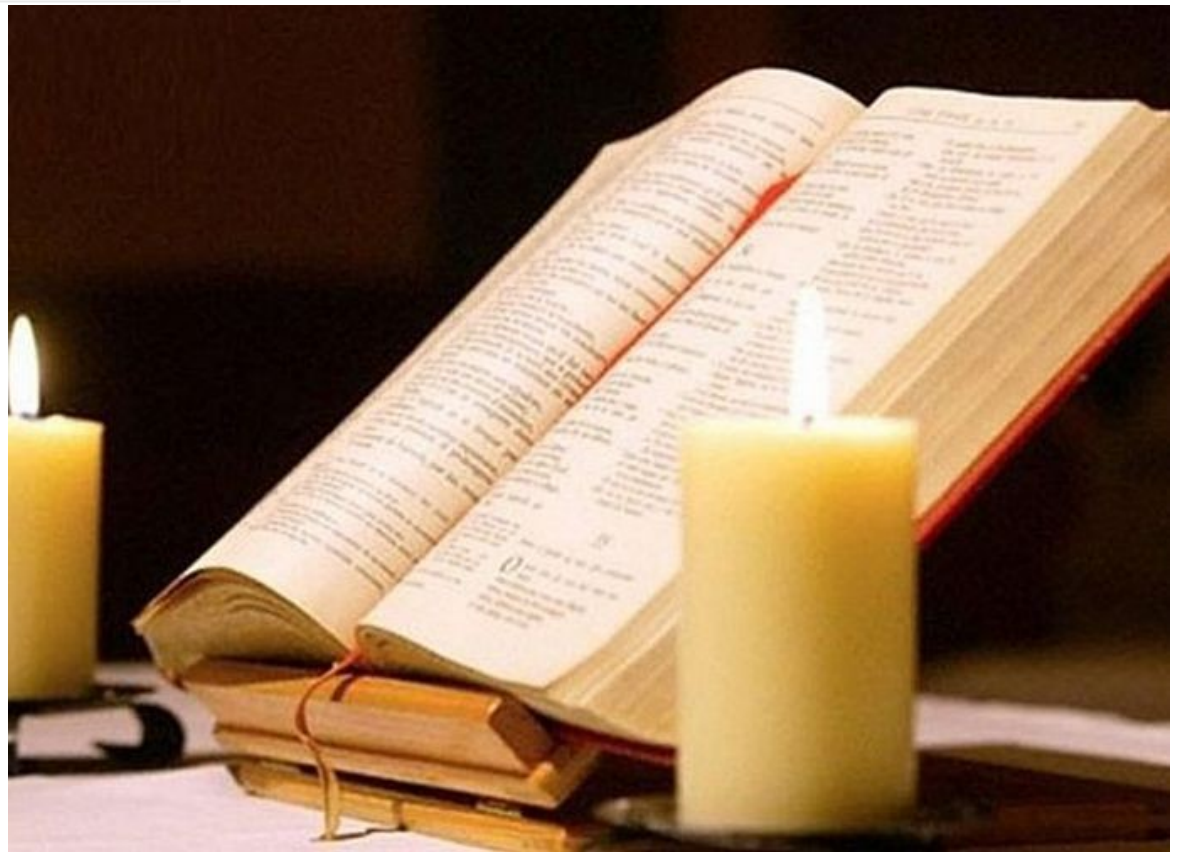


GOSPEL PEARLS

Turning a deaf ear

GOSPEL PEARLS

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Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother John, and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant. (Mk:9, 2-10)

The presence of Moses and Elijah conversing with Jesus, could lead us to think they all have the same dignity and therefore are on the same level. Instead the voice of the Father, who reaffirms the divine nature of the Son, opposes any temptation to reduce Him to human nature alone. By not recognizing that Jesus is God, as Muslims and Jehovah's Witnesses do, we are refusing to submit our will to Him and this will not lead to everlasting life. So be careful not to turn a deaf ear when you are tempted to do something contrary to what the Gospel of Jesus says.