

The Glory Revealed

E.T.S.: Luke 9:28-36 tells of Jesus' glory revealed to Peter, James, and John.

E.S.S.: The glory revealed was a wonderful experience meant to inspire the disciples' obedience.

Christ Follower: Understand that worship leads to obedience. When Jesus' glory is revealed, hearing Him and doing what He says naturally follows.

Christ Seeker: Respond to the truth of Who Jesus is in faith. Believe Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and the salvation of your soul.

Introduction

Open your Bible to the ninth chapter of the gospel according to Luke.

In my opinion, some of the neatest events or experiences recorded in the Bible are the times when God very clearly and evidently made His presence known.

- Genesis two and three record that God walked in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve
- The third and fourth chapters of Exodus tell of God appearing as a flame in a bush on the side of a mountain

- God appeared as a pillar of fire between the Egyptians and Hebrews as they passed through the parted waters of the Red Sea
- Exodus 19 tells of God coming down on Mount Sinai in fire, a cloud with lightning, and the sound of thunder and a great trumpet

We could continue because these revelations show up throughout the Old Testament.

How awesome would it be to be an eyewitness of a revelation like these?

Often, that's not the response those who were witnesses to these revelations had. In fact, that changed right after Adam and Eve sinned. Instead of looking forward to seeing God, man has been fearful of His presence. When God showed up on Mount Sinai in Exodus 19, the people of Israel feared and fled. They told Moses, "You go up on the mount; we don't want to die!"

The New Testament does not record these revelations; however, the New Testament reveals something greater!

Bible

(1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1 - KJV

(14) And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 - KJV

Introduction

We know that John is speaking of Jesus. Jesus is the Word, and it was His glory they beheld.

Though John revealed this to others who had seen glimpses of Jesus' glory, John had a special experience of His glory; John had a special revelation of Jesus' glory. He, along with Peter and James, had the privilege of a special revelation of His glory as recorded in Luke nine.

Follow along as I read verses 28-36.

Bible

(28) And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. (29) And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering. (30) And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: (31) Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem. (32) But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him. (33) And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said. (34) While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud. (35) And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him. (36) And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen.

Introduction

We'll look at this revelation in four stages.

1...The Demonstration (vv. 28-31a)

Explanation

Matthew and Mark, in telling this account, write that it transpired "after six days" from the previous events. Luke declares that it happened "about an eight days after." So, which is correct? Each account is, somewhat, purposefully vague. There was no intention or need to give a specific timestamp to the event, and each account generalizes the timeframe. So, no contradiction is here.

As was true before Jesus spoke of discipleship, here Jesus goes to a mountain to pray. From one event to the next, the writer shows us that Jesus prayed. This reveals that Jesus frequently did this.

He took Peter, James, and John with Him on this occasion. The various Gospel accounts detail how the three fell asleep and, while they slept, Jesus changed. He literally looked different.

Matthew 17:2 reveals that His face shone as the sun. Luke says that His raiment was white and glistening. The verb form of these descriptions is used to describe a lightning flash.

Lightning is pretty amazing:

- 54,000 degrees; about five times hotter than the surface of the sun
- one lightning bolt is equal to the power of 80 million car batteries and could power a 100-watt light bulb for three months
- lightning is produced after a negative charge in the cloud above produces a positive charge in the earth below and these come together in an electrical impulse called a "stepped leader"
- the leader drops toward the earth at about 136,000 miles per hour until it almost reaches the ground
- that's when a bolt of electricity travels back up the leader's path to complete the circuit at about 62 million miles per hour
- the path is about as wide as a thumb

That's pretty cool stuff!

Do you know what is even more amazing?

The glory of Jesus was revealed to the disciples on the mountainside. He's so glorious that His radiance shines as the sun and as a lightning flash.

What is even more amazing than that?

That this same Jesus could veil all of it in taking upon Him the form of a servant and being made in the likeness of a man.

That's glorious!

2...The Conversation (v. 31b)

Explanation

Then, Moses and Elijah showed up too. They appeared in glory. and had a conversation with Jesus.

What did they want to talk about with Him at that moment?

His decease...The word means an exit. In Hebrews 11:22, it's the word the writer used to describe the Hebrews' departure from Egypt. Peter, one of the disciples who witnessed this great event, used the same word to describe his departure from the body (his death). You find this in 2 Peter 1 where, interestingly, he spoke of this event right after. That's the text we read earlier in the service.

Is this interesting to you? It is to me. Of all the things they could talk about, including the event taking place right then, right there, they spoke about the work He was sent to do, the work He would *accomplish*. He would satisfy the Father; He would fulfill His office; He would finish the work.

That's why the most amazing reality of this event isn't the glory He revealed. The most amazing reality of this event is that this glory He has was veiled so that He could walk among us, work among us, live among us, and die as one of us...for us.

That's right!

The glorious God of the universe became a man like you and me, except He was sinless. Where we failed, He prevailed. He lived a perfect life doing good, serving others, and loving everyone. Then, through the jealousy and hatred of some who opposed Him, He was arrested, tried, and sentenced to death by crucifixion. He suffered this excruciating death to pay sin's penalty for every person. Then, three days later, He rose from the grave. Now, He offers you everything: forgiveness of sins, salvation, deliverance from eternal death in hell, and a future in His glorious heaven.

Do you know Him as your Savior?

3...The Inspiration (vv. 32-33)

Explanation

Peter, James, and John were there and they weren't at the same time. You know what I mean, right?

They were sleeping. Straight up out of it.

Illustration

We went as a family to the Walk/Run for Life in support of the Your Choice Resource Center on Saturday. As we drove away, Michael shared that he was scared. Now, before I tell you what he was scared about, keep in mind that he often speaks of wanting to be a pastor-daddy.

Whenever we put a button-up shirt on him, he talks about how he's a pastor like daddy and

how he wants to be a pastor-daddy someday.

So, after we left the park where the walk/run was he said that he was scared. I asked him what he was scared about. He said that he was scared that when he becomes a pastor-daddy he will be a bad preacher. I guess he's afraid of putting people to sleep.

Explanation

There's a little connection here we shouldn't miss. Jesus, Moses, and Elijah were already there in glory before the disciples awakened. The disciples were literally in the presence of that glory but did not know it because they were sleeping.

I wonder how many times we have missed or now miss revelations of God's glory because we are asleep.

When they finally woke up, they saw the scene. Notice, that their attention first went to Jesus. Let's make sure that Jesus always has our attention first.

The whole scene inspired Peter. He was ready to build three tabernacles right then and there. He wanted to stay up on the mountain in the presence of glory all the time. Here's the problem with that: Jesus already told them He was headed to Jerusalem to suffer, be rejected, slain, and raised to life. Had Peter forgotten or did he want to bypass all of that?

Do you remember how Satan tempted Jesus to bypass all of that?

Ultimately, it's Satan's deception that we can experience glory without the cross.

Jesus told them of His coming death; He told them of discipleship; then, He revealed His glory.

Philippians two reveals how Jesus went through the suffering of death and, then, the Father glorified Him.

Friends, remember, we cannot experience glory without the cross.

4...The Declaration (vv. 34-36)

Explanation

As Peter continued speaking, a cloud overshadowed them. The word, as used here, speaks of enveloping in a haze of brilliancy. I think about some of those Old Testament revelations of God. In Exodus 19, He came down on Mount Sinai in His glory, which included a cloud. In Exodus 40, God descended on the newly constructed Tabernacle in a cloud of glory. In these instances, as with many others, men responded in fear.

What happened here?

They feared as they entered the cloud.

They were afraid.

Why?

God's glorious presence always confronts man's fallenness.

However, a voice spoke from the midst of the cloud. I want you to let these words sit for a few

moments. *This is my beloved Son: hear him.*

This is the important conclusion to this experience. This answers why this event happened and why it is recorded.

- God the Father identified Who Jesus is
- God the Father identified how we should respond

The event reveals the glory of Jesus and it should inspire our worship of Him.

The event gives us a glimpse of what heaven will be.

More than our worship and hope of heaven, the event reminds us to listen to and obey Him.

Conclusion

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Christ Seeker: Respond to the truth of Who Jesus is in faith. Believe Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and the salvation of your soul.