

“They Saw His Glory”

Sermon Notes

- **Today's text is situated at a turning point in Luke's narrative. Previously the primary question was, “Who is this Jesus?” For the rest of Luke's gospel, the disciples will wrestle with the questions, “Where is he leading us?” and “What does he require of us?”**

The transfiguration serves three important functions to move the disciples in this direction. It provides them (and us) with ...

1. ...a view of where we are _____ .

2. ...a _____ - _____ call.

3. ...a correction to our inborn tendency to _____ .

Community Group Study Guide
For the Week of November 5th - 11th

Please read Luke 9:28-36.

1. In verse 29, Luke describes a change in the appearance of Jesus' face and clothing.
 - a. Compare this with the description of Moses in Exodus 34:29.
 - (1). Why was the face of Moses shining?
 - (2). Did the face of Jesus change for the same reason? Please explain.
 - b. What do you think happened to Jesus' clothing?

2. In verse 30, Jesus is no longer praying, but rather conversing with Moses and Elijah.
 - a. Do you think they appeared suddenly from nowhere, or does some time pass between verse 29 and verse 30? Please explain.
 - b. Why do you think Moses speaks with Jesus on the mount of transfiguration rather than another figure from the Old Testament?
 - c. Why Elijah?
 - d. Why two men and not one or three?
 - e. Elijah had been carried bodily into heaven (2 Kings 2:11) but how is it that Moses is able to appear in physical form? Has he been raised from the dead? Please explain your answer.

3. In verse 31 Moses and Elijah appear "in glory".
 - a. Do you think their appearance was similar or different than the Lord's? (See verse 32)
 - b. Do you think that the appearance of the saints in heaven is always glorious like this, or was this because they were in the presence of Jesus? Please explain.
 - c. The topic of their discussion is Jesus' upcoming departure which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. How does Jesus' coming departure compare with the departure of Elijah described in 2 Kings 2:11?
 - d. Luke uses the Greek word "exodus" to describe this departure. How does Jesus' coming exodus compare with the exodus of Moses?

4. In verse 32 Luke states that Peter, James and John were "heavy with sleep."
 - a. Do you think they were actually sleeping, or just drowsy? Please explain your answer.
 - b. If they were sleeping, how did they know what Jesus, Moses and Elijah were discussing?

- c. According to Matthews gospel, the same three disciples were also sleepy while Jesus was praying in the garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46). Are the situations somehow similar? Why or why not?
5. Peter is able to identify the two men speaking with Jesus in verse 33.
- a. How did he recognize Moses and Elijah, two men whom he had never met?
 - b. Peter mentions building shelters for Jesus, Elijah and Moses. Why doesn't he plan to build shelters for himself, James and John as well?
 - c. The text says that Peter didn't know what he was saying. What was inappropriate about Peter's suggestion?
 - (1). Do you think that it was foolish to suggest that men in a glorified state would need shelters? Please explain.
 - (2). Do you think that it's suggesting that any shelter that the disciples could have provided would have been inadequate? Please explain.
 - (3). Do you think that his desire to prolong the experience was inappropriate? Please explain.
 - (4). Do you think that he was wrong to equate the status of Moses and Elijah with Jesus? Why or why not?
6. A cloud covers the disciples in verse 34.
- a. What does the cloud represent? (See Psalm 18:11)
 - b. Why are the disciples afraid of the voice? (See Exodus 20:19-20)
7. A voice comes from the crowd and directs the disciples to listen to Jesus.
- a. What does this say about the relative importance of what Moses and Elijah have to say?
 - b. Is what the voice says in some way a rebuke of Peter's attempt to prolong this glorious experience. Please explain.
 - c. What is the significance of the title, "Chosen One"? (See Isaiah 42:1-4)
8. After the voice speaks, Jesus is found alone.
- a. Do you think that the cloud disappeared along with Moses and Elijah?
 - b. Do you think that the changed appearance of Jesus' face and clothing resumed their mundane form? Please explain.

c. Why do you think the glory faded from Jesus so quickly when it took time to fade from the face of Moses? (Exodus 34:29, 30, 35)