

Luke
See Jesus
A Glimpse of His Glory
Luke 9:28-44

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Oct. 24, 2021

I. His Greatest Glory Surrounds His Ultimate Mission of Weakness and Death

Luke 9:30-31 “And behold, two men were talking with Him, Moses and Elijah,³¹ who appeared in glory and spoke of His departure, which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.”

Moses represents the Law – the first five books of the Bible. Elijah represents all the prophets who have ever pointed to this great day. And Jesus is the very fulfillment of both!

Jesus and His Father describe His impending death on the cross for our sins with more references to the words “glory” and “glorify” than at any other point in His life.

See John 12:23-33; 17:1-5

II. The Sight of His Glory Was Meant to Change Us But Not Keep Us from Heading Back into This World

A. His Glory Should Change Us

Luke 9:32 “Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw His glory...”

The Greek word for His clothing being dazzling white at the end of verse 29 is a word that was used for “lightning,” so this is a terrifying, unsettling, flashing, bright light. The word “glory” means something weighty that really matters.

You could define the glory of God as the external revelation of His internal character and excellencies. In other words, the glory of God is the character, beauty, and wonder of God gone public!

“We are all starved for the glory of God, not self. No one goes to the Grand Canyon to increase self-esteem. Why do we go? Because there is greater healing for the soul in beholding splendor than there is in beholding self. Indeed, what could be more ludicrous in a vast and glorious universe like this than a human being, on the speck called earth, standing in front of a mirror trying to find significance in his own self-image? It is a great sadness that this is the gospel of the modern world.”

~ John Piper, *Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ*

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 “For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord...⁶ for it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

It's the glory of Jesus that continually changes us to be more like Him for the rest of our lives.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 “But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

You will never become more like Him without spending time in God's Word with Him. That's how you really change and that's why so many Christians don't look or live like Jesus.

B. His Glory Was Never Meant to Keep Us from Going Back into this World

Luke 9:33 “And as the men were parting from Him, Peter said to Jesus, ‘Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah’ – not knowing what he said.”

Peter does what we're tempted to do when we begin to experience the wonder of His glory. He wanted this mountaintop glory experience to last forever; he wanted to camp out there and never leave.

Luke 9:37 “On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met Him.”

You have to come down from the mountaintop experience and when you do, it's likely that you'll encounter chaos and confusion in a very dark and broken world.

The glory of Jesus at work in you still leaves you in desperate need of Him. We still have no power of our own in the face of this broken, dark world.

See 2 Corinthians 3:5-6; 4:7-11

III. Your Experience of His Glory Should Lead You Back to His Word

Luke 9:34-35 “As [Peter] was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!’”

As wonderful as mountaintop experiences are, they should never be the basis of your Christian life.

The memory of an amazing experience can start to unravel and fade, but the Word of God stays the same.

If you chase experience – even spiritual experiences – your Christian life will become vulnerable to the law of diminishing returns, just like everything else in this world. He gave us His Word so that we could be grateful for experiences, but live untethered from them.

See 2 Peter 1:16-21