



The Gospel According to Luke

Wk. 45 “Getting Caught up in the Glory of Christ”

By Pastor Jody May

Luke 9:28-36 ESV

The Transfiguration

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. ³⁰ 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. ³² Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. 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. ³⁴ As he 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!” ³⁶ And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

Introduction:

Life Altering moments come from great revelation, what are you doing to cultivate them?

1. What Leads to the Mountain Top Experience/Revelation. (vs.18-31)

We are turning the corner here in Luke today. Jesus’ Northern campaign of spreading the Gospel to His people, near his roots, is coming to an end. He turns His gaze towards Jerusalem seeing the finish line. The end of Jesus’ earthly ministry is bittersweet, to see the ultimate victory of the Kingdom over death, the devil and our hearts of stone, to finally see the horizon of the New Covenant



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about to be ushered in all by the painful and humiliating death on a cross; the “Endgame” has begun.

It has been the top of his popularity, he has healed infirmities, cast out demons, fed thousands of people with a sack lunch, and even raised the dead. He has even raised up disciples/apostles to do similar works in His name, and Peter finally said something without putting his foot in his mouth.

²⁰ Then he said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” And Peter answered, “The Christ of God.”

But sadly, enough there is gray cloud cast on all of these good things, as Jesus points to the true destiny of His mission and why he has been keeping His identity as the Messiah a secret.

²² ...“The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

Then, at the end of June, after these signs, we discovered what it would cost to truly follow Him.

²³ And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

Along with the news that following Jesus will cost you your life came the message that there is no other way to be in God’s Kingdom. He explained in **John 6**, this occurs at the **same point in time**, that unless you partake in His sacrifice you can have nothing to do with the Kingdom nor His Father.

⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it (vs. 52 - “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.) they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?”... ⁶⁶ After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.⁶⁷



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It light of all of this one can imagine that the days following this mass exodus of disciples that it was a pretty somber mood. They were marching into enemy territory, the Jews, knowing that Jesus believed it was His end. How was it that the Apostles were reconciling all of this in their head, **how would you accept this**, that the greatest person you ever met, someone who brought meaning to your life, someone that represented an ‘ideal’ that all men could come to the Father, the ultimate freedom. Would you have dragged your feet a little, would you have been encouraging Jesus or would you be speaking words of rebuttal at this apparent attempt of some **weird suicide**?

²⁸ Now about **eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. ³⁰ And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹ who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure,^[b] which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.**

Jesus finally gets the ENCOURAGEMENT He needs, and it doesn’t come from His boys but comes from some other players in the Kingdom. The Law giver Himself, and the prophet of God that never knew death. It is at this moment before entering Jerusalem that Jesus is consecrated for His work coming up in Jerusalem, they discuss the plan, there are assurances of the process, and the true glory of Jesus is revealed. It is as if the Father for a moment pulls back the shroud (***form of a Servant Phil.2:27***) and Jesus glows with His **true inner Glory**.

Jesus shines with a **“self-radiating” light** next to the one (Moses) that had shown with the reflected light of God from receiving the law and now we see where that reflection came from. In that moment Jesus prepares for his ascension as well, not like Elijah who was taken up before the sting of death even though he was a sinner. Jesus deserved a triumphant ascension based on His perfect life, but instead endures the death of His people so that prophecy and God’s will is fulfilled. The ascending to God’s right hand must be earned for He who should never have to prove anything. His victory you see is not just for the future church



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that would come but His victory must happen for all those that have gone before. Everyone in the OT is saved because they believed that God would save them, and now in front of Moses and Elijah’s eyes they were seeing how.

The Apostles were about to wake up and boy were they about to get a shock, they were about to see Jesus as Moses, Elijah, and the Angels saw Jesus **in His pre-glorified state**, the one that turned Moses hair white when He passed by, the one that took Elijah up in a chariot of fire, the one that split the Red Sea, the one that sent fire down to consume Baals altar and the false prophets with fire, the glory that caused all of Israel to fear when the mountain spoke & shook, they were about to wake up and see in the flesh the God of the OT before them, the burning bush was no longer a mystery, this was the voice behind “**I am**” (Jn. 8). Moses pleaded for this revelation in His life and God hid Him in the cleft of the rock so not to destroy him. It was thrust upon the disciples making us ponder did they need even a greater revealing of who God was for their future days?!

What does it take for us to get to a point in our lives where we finally glimpse and see the real image of Jesus, the Jesus behind all the stories we know, the Jesus we grew up with, took advantage of, took his name in vain, got baptized in his name, to finally get a glimpse of His glory, what does it take to see Him, wouldn’t your life change if you could see it?

- The first thing that I want to point out is that it was the Grace and hard work of Christ that got them to this moment.
 - “**Grace**”, when they still didn’t quite get who He was. Grace that even took them up to that mountain top to witness it. There was no deserving work that got them there.
 - It was the “**Sovereign Work**” of Christ that brought them to this moment, how He led them every step of their life to this point.
- Secondly, let me point out, even though we are separated by two thousand years, we receive the true revelation of Jesus the same way.

(Examples of Revelatory Conversions)



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Remember, we are saved by faith, **Hebrews 11:1** “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” We start down the simple road trusting Him even when the news of our lives isn’t always pleasant. We rely on the grace of God to give us the Revelation of who Jesus really is, pray for it, because when it happens it will change your life and will continue to change your life as long as you live.

The Gospel does not change in what it says but over time the Gospel gains power by you understanding what it means; just keep walking by Faith.

My prayer for all of us is that Jesus keeps revealing to you who He is and how He saves but when that moment happens, as great as it is, **sometimes our reaction falls short...**

2. Problems with the Interpretation of Revelation. (vs. 32-33)

³² Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. 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 and the boys wake up from an awesome nap, the text alludes to that they were almost put in a sleep like a hypnotic condition, and upon open their eyes opening they observe this meeting. Now this is on purpose, to His top guys, that in the days to come they would remember this moment, to take hope in it, but even then, fear will overcome them in Jerusalem. Even in this moment Peter reacts with emotion and speaks up instead of worshipping and waiting for God’s Word to be revealed.

Peter opens his mouth and interrupts this Holy meeting. “**Master, let’s make three tents!**” Let me offer what I think the intent here is. *Master, let’s sit here for a while, no need to rush to Jerusalem, see Moses and Elijah, our heroes from*



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old, have found you worthy! Let's just take in this moment, contemplate the love of God on you, maybe even rethink this suicide plan of yours?

Peter had been saved by Jesus, not just his soul but his state in life. Jesus had taken all of His guys from their ordinary lives, gave them meaning and purpose, set them free from many things, and for Peter like many of us, we just want to savor it, **sit in it like a warm bath**, and not move on from that moment.

We forget the call of Lk. 9:23-24 to lose our lives. Folks if you have found Jesus then you know what I am talking about. **When you find Jesus, He changes everything about your life!** And it is **very tempting to hold onto that first gospel in your life and never move on deeper into the Gospel.** Problem is though that we have churches full of people that have built their churches like tents, that became stagnant, they built their places of worship into glorified idolatry makers, they built safe places where they never had to move on back into the real world. **Instead of the church becoming a place to send out people from they became a graveyard to call people to come and die in.**

We have always got to remember that we are not saved from running away from our cross but we are saved by running to it!

We are to take the revelation of Jesus with us into the world because it is in the world that we will keep meeting Him! He told us to make disciples from those we bring in and that requires the attitude of adventure seeking not hiding.

How do you know if you may be struggling with this?

- Are your prayers more about talking a lot to get done with a list of requests or are they sporadic in your speech and reflective in your thoughts as the Spirit makes clear in your heart what God's will is for your life?
- Are you always praying that God protect you from what is scary to you in the world or are you actively asking him for courage to face it?

Let's be convicted but not disparaging here, for God is sure to act for His people to make sure we get this right, as shown here.



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3. The Ultimate Revelation, when the Father Speaks. (vs. 34-36)

³⁴ As he 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!” ³⁶ And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

The Father interrupts Peter for His heresy, because He loves Jesus AND He loves Peter. His correction is not to teach the doctrine Himself but to give that responsibility to Jesus. It is the commendation of God we see on Jesus just as when he was ordained at the Baptism, God consecrates this event with His voice again. **“ This is my Son LISTEN TO HIM!”**

Listen to the Jesus that knows how to save us yes from the world and “YES” from four own hearts!

Matthew 11:28-30 ESV

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Let us learn today that we don’t run to Jesus to escape persecution we run to Him to endure it! The yoke is light but without Him the weight of our sin is impossible to endure.

Because Jesus endured His cross we can bear ours...

The Apostles, were prepared for martyrdom by baby steps, they lived with one another, worked with each other, before the call came for them to die for what they believed in. **We must take baby steps as well to get us to the point of obeying without hesitation. “(Your first baby step here.)**



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Are you doing life with people? Perhaps your tendency is to hide behind what Jesus has already done for you because you have not wanted to step into community life to find a body of believers that will encourage you to pursue God’s calling for you in your life? Spending too much time alone will get you left behind, and will brand you as a person that tries to use Jesus instead of serving their king.

This morning let’s go to the Father, ask Him to clarify who Jesus is to us, now and in the future, in our lives, ask Him to line up the Jesus we find in these scriptures this morning with the Jesus we are called to follow. Let us not hide in our patterns of living because we feel safe in them, **we can throw caution to the wind for caution can’t save us!** Let, us follow the Words of our Lord in the call to follow Him, for He holds the promise of eternal life.

PRAY

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father that commands us to listen to His Son, assuring us that there is only one way to get to Him.

Go in the name of the Son, that glorified Himself and displays GLORY so bright by His sacrifice that His people will not lose sight of Him.

Go in the name and power of the HS that by His conviction, we can surrender our safe place, step out into the world, and witness for the sake of the Kingdom.



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Examples of Revelatory Conversions

Martin Luther Quote about Romans 1:17 from July 1519

At last, by the mercy of God, meditating day and night, I gave heed to the context of the words, namely, "In it the righteousness of God is revealed, as it is written, 'He who through faith is righteous shall live.'" There I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that by which the righteous lives by a gift of God, namely by faith. And this is the meaning: the righteousness of God is revealed by the gospel, namely, the passive righteousness with which merciful God justifies us by faith, as it is written, "He who through faith is righteous shall live." Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates.

Charles Spurgeon Auto Biography from Jan 1850

He had not much to say, thank God, for that compelled him to keep on repeating his text, and there was nothing needed—by me, at any rate except his text. Then, stopping, he pointed to where I was sitting under the gallery, and he said, 'That young man there looks very miserable' ... and he shouted, as I think only a Primitive Methodist can, 'Look! Look, young man! Look now!' ... Then I had this vision—not a vision to my eyes, but to my heart. I saw what a Savior Christ was.... Now I can never tell you how it was, but I no sooner saw whom I was to believe than I also understood what it was to believe, and I did believe in one moment.

R.C. Sproul Conversion Moment 1957

It came from the book of Ecclesiastes, where the author of Ecclesiastes describes, in metaphorical terms, a tree that falls in the forest and where it falls there it stays. And God awakened my soul by considering that passage, as I saw myself as a tree falling, and rotting, and decaying. And that was the description of my life. That's where I was. Nobody had to tell me that I was a sinner, I knew that. It was abundantly clear to me.