

I. Introduction. v. 27

- A. What does Jesus mean when He says that there are some standing with Him who would see the kingdom of God before they die? v. 27 9:28-36 24:1ff,51 2 Pe. 1:16-18 Ro. 1:4 1 Co. 6:14 John 21:21ff Acts 1:9-11 2:1ff Mark 13:30
- B. Why does Jesus temporarily lift the veil of His glory? Isa. 52:13-15 53:2-3,10-12  
Phil. 2:5-8 2 Co. 8:9 Ex. 13:21 33-34 30:34-35 2 Chron. 7:1-3 1 Ki. 8:10-11
- C. We too need a taste of heavenly glory. Rom. 8:18

II. Jesus His disciples a glimpse of His glory. 9:28-31

- A. Jesus takes Peter, James and John up on the mountain to pray. v. 28 9:18 3:21 6:12 11:1
  - 1. Why does Jesus take only three of His disciples? 9:28 8:51 Mark 14:33
  - 2. This experience has a big impact on each of them as they bear witness to the glory of Jesus. 2 Pe. 1:16-18 John 1:18,14 1 Jo. 1:1-5
- B. Jesus is transfigured before them. v. 29 Mt. 17:2 Mark 9:2-3
  - 1. Jesus' appearance is transformed as His divine nature (and glory) is revealed.  
1 Jo. 1:5 John 1:4-5 8:12 Phil. 2:8 Isa. 52:13-15 Rom. 12:2 2 Co. 3:18 Mark 9:3
  - 2. The disciples receive a foretaste of the glory of Jesus that was and is yet to come.  
John 17:5 Mt. 25:31 Rev. 1:13-15 21
- C. Why are Moses and Elijah present? v. 30-31a Mt. 5:17
  - 1. Their presence confirms that our souls continue beyond this life. 9:25 23:43  
2 Co. 5:8 Phil. 1:23 Heb. 9:27
  - 2. These significant Old Testament figures have much in common with each other.  
Ex. 31:18 1 Ki. 19:8ff 1 Ki. 17:6 Deut. 34:6 18:15ff 2 Ki. 2:11 Jude 1:9 Mal. 4:5-6 3:1
  - 3. They also have important things in common with Jesus. John 6:31-32 Ex. 33:18-23  
34:5-7,29-35 1 Ki. 17:17ff John 6:31-32
  - 4. Moses and Elijah appear to represent the Law and the Prophets in bearing witness to Jesus' identity and mission. 24:26-27,44 John 1:17 Mt. 5:17 Deut. 19:15
  - 5. They are glorified with Jesus. v. 31a Heb. 12:23
- D. Jesus, Moses and Elijah talk about Jesus' coming departure (exodus). v. 31b
  - 1. The focus of their conversation is Jesus' redemptive work. v. 22 24:26-27 1 Pe. 1:10ff
  - 2. Just as God delivered His people out of slavery in Egypt through Moses, Jesus leads His people in a greater exodus from slavery to sin and death. 4:18 Dt. 6:20ff Ex. 6:6ff

III. The disciples don't comprehend what they have experienced. 9:32-36

- A. They are overcome by sleep. v. 32 22:45-46 Mt. 26:43 Acts 20:9 1 Th. 5:6
- B. What was Peter thinking? v. 33 Js. 1:19 Pr. 10:19
  - 1. Peter seems to be trying to extend the mountaintop experience.
  - 2. Some suggest that he is trying to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. Zech. 14:16-19  
Lev. 23:42-44 Neh. 8:14-17
- C. What was so wrong about what Peter suggests?
  - 1. He (again) dares to suggest that he is capable of giving Jesus advice. 8:45 Mt. 16:22

2. He (again) is trying to put a barrier between Jesus and the humiliation of the cross. 9:22 Mt. 16:22-23
3. He reduces Jesus to what the crowds thought of Him – equal to other prophets. 9:18f
4. This Christological heresy infects many cults as well as Islam and other religions.
5. Jesus all glorious. John 17:5 1:14,18

D. God the Father visibly manifests Himself. v. 34 3:22

1. The cloud is another manifestation of Divine glory. 21:27 Ps. 97:2 Ex. 40:34-38 19:16 24:15-18 13:21-22 16:10 Dt. 5:22 2 Chr. 7:1-3 Ezek. 30:3 Dan. 7:13-14 Isa. 4:5 Zeph. 1:15 Lev. 23:43 Mark 13:62 Num. 16:42 1 Ki. 8:11 1 Co. 10:1-2
2. Jesus will both ascend and return in the clouds. 21:27 Acts 1:9ff 1 Thess. 4:17 Rev. 1:7
3. Jesus is infinitely greater than Moses, Elijah, Abraham, David and Solomon both in His Person and in His work. 11:31 John 8:48-56

E. The Father bears powerful witness to Jesus' identity. 35b 3:22 John 12:28-30

1. Jesus is the Son of God. 1:31-35 3:21f 4:1-13 Ps. 2:7f John 1:1ff 17:5 3:16 Mt. 17:5
2. Jesus is the chosen Servant of the LORD of Whom Isaiah spoke. Isa. 42:1 52:12-5:13 Luke 23:35 Mt. 17:5 3:17 Ps. 89:3
3. Jesus is the great Prophet like Moses to whom all must listen. 23:35 Deut. 18:15ff Acts 3:22-23 7:37

F. Jesus stands alone. v. 36

1. His glory infinitely surpasses that of any other luminaries.
2. The era of the law and the prophets has ended. 16:16 John 1:17 Heb. 1:1f
3. We are safe with Jesus. v. 34b 1:13,30 50 5:10 :25 Mt. 17:6-7
4. Though He has re-assumed His ordinary appearance, His glory is undiminished.
5. The disciples don't tell what they had seen until after the resurrection. v. 36 9:21 Mt. 17:9 Dan. 10:15

IV. Concluding applications -- How should we respond to the transfiguration?

- A. Jesus is worthy of our attention and our worship.
- B. We participate in the exodus He leads. Eph. 1:4 1 Co. 1:27-28 5:7 Rom. 8:32
- C. We too can experience Jesus' glory – a taste of heaven. Ps. 16:11 Phil. 3:20-21 1 Jo. 3:2-3 1 Co. 15:52 2 Co. 3:18 Col. 3:1-4 1 Jo. 3:2 Dan. 12:3 Rev. 4:4 7:9

Discussion questions

1. Why do you think the transfiguration takes place at this particular time?
2. What echos from the Old Testament are found in the transfiguration story?
3. How are Moses and Elijah similar to one another?
4. How do Moses and Elijah prefigure Jesus?
5. What was so wrong about what Peter said to Jesus in verse 33?
6. How do people today make the same errors that Peter made?
7. How do we listen to Jesus?
8. Are there particular things God is telling you to which you need to pay heed?
9. Have you ever had a mountaintop experience with the Lord from which it was hard to come down? Explain.
10. Why can't we always live on the mountaintop in our experience of God?