

The Hidden Glory

Luke 9:28-36; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; November 13, 2016

The Hidden Glory of Christ

This account is called 'the transfiguration' because in it we see the true glory of Christ revealed to three of His disciples.

- To see the kingdom of God is to see the King: *Some eight days after these sayings [these words], He took along Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. (28)*

Somehow this event in the life of Jesus is connected to what He has just said in Luke 9:18-27.

The connection is seen in, at least, two ways:

- His glory (v. 32 and v. 26)
- His departure (v.31 and v. 22)

This 'seeing of the kingdom before they die' has been understood in different ways:

- A reference to this event, the transfiguration.
- The resurrection and ascension of Jesus.
- The coming of the Spirit at Pentecost.
- The second coming of Christ.

The common theme in all these is seeing the truth about Jesus as the promised King. (Luke 17:20-21) We are ignorant of the King until God opens our eyes! Do you have eyes to see the kingdom of God? The King?

- The glory of Jesus is His fulfillment of all that God commanded and promised in the OT, culminating in the cross: *And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, (30)*
- They represented the law and the prophets which Jesus came to fulfill (Matthew 5:17; Luke 24:27, 44)
- Both of them had deaths wrapped in mystery (Deuteronomy 34:5,6; 2 Kings 2:11)

It is amazing how the life of Jesus fulfills what we see in the OT. Some have noted that we can easily see that Jesus fulfilled 350 or more OT prophecies. (Luke 24:25-27) Are you working from a position of rest?

- When we are fully awake spiritually, we see the hidden glory of Jesus: *Now Peter and his companions had been overcome [weighed down] with sleep; but when they were fully awake [wide awake], they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him. (32)*

We are often blind to the truth of who and what people are and will be! It takes the light of the gospel to open our eyes to the glory of Jesus! – 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

The Hidden Glory of God's Work

It is also important to see in the life of Jesus and his disciples that God's work is done in ways that appear to be 'death' and 'defeat' rather than 'life' and 'victory.'

- The way out of the ‘land of the dead’ into the ‘land of the living’ is death: *Who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure [His exodus] which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. (31)*

Life is given through ‘death’ and experienced through ‘death’, figuratively and literally. – Luke 9:23-24; 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

- Special times of refreshing are needed, but that is not where we live: *And as these were leaving Him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tabernacles: one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not realizing what he was saying. (33)*

Our desire to live on the mountain top rather than the valley? – 1 Corinthians 4:9-13

The Hidden Glory of (Private) Prayer

Finally, it is important to see that the secret or private life of prayer is something that will have more significance than we can ever imagine.

- Jesus was glorified while He was praying, we are glorified through our praying; *And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing became white and gleaming. (29)* – Matthew 17:2; Mark 9:2b-3

In the transfiguration, we have the true nature and glory of God in Jesus revealed to these three disciples. Jesus is much greater and glorious than may appear to us as we see Him in His humiliation as Suffering Servant! We know that those who believe in Jesus are being transformed into His image. – 2 Corinthians 3:18

But do we pray for this change? Do you pray for the Spirit? (Luke 11:13) Do you pray more often: Lord, change them or Lord, change me?

- Confusion and fear in the midst of the ‘cloud’ can only be dispelled by listening to the word from and concerning Jesus: the sovereign rule of holy love: ³⁴ *While he was saying this, a cloud formed and began to overshadow them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.* ³⁵ *Then 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 reported to no one in those days any of the things which they had seen. (34-36)*

What did the followers of Jesus need to know after Jesus’ prediction of His suffering and their suffering?

- The love of God (see Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7)
- The future glory (Hebrews 12:2)

See the hidden glory of Jesus and your glory in His glory! (2 Peter 1:16-20) Go into your ‘closet’ and pray and be rewarded with seeing Christ and seeing God do amazing things as well as seeing God’s love for you and your future glory! (Matthew 6:5-6)