



INTRODUCING JESUS: THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 9:18-27

Community Group Study Guide Week of July 19, 2020

We live in an age in which there are many different views on the identity of Jesus of Nazareth. Some say that he was just a very skilled rabbi who developed a large following and cared for the marginalized in society. Others say that he was just another prophet of God. Presently, many wrongly limit his identity to being the ultimate hero of the oppressed. His apparent defiance of Roman and Jewish authorities, they assert, serves as motivation and justification for all other peaceful and, even, armed fights against oppression. These suggestions are not new and not very different than many of the those that circulated about the identity of Christ during his day, even amongst his own disciples, and in the first couple of centuries after his ascension. This is affirmed in Luke 9:18-27.

As the wheat grows up among the tares (Matthew 13:24-30), the argument in the world about the identity of Jesus will continue to go on and be repetitive. Biblical Christianity, though, affirms that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the anointed One, to whom all of the Scriptures point. Faith in his life and death on earth is the only means by which God's children can be reunited with their Father in Heaven. This is a stance that is taken primarily because it is what Scripture says and it is what Jesus Christ himself said about himself, and also because it is affirmed by history (see the writings of Flavius Josephus).

Christ himself, while on earth, knew that there would be many people speculating about his identity, which is why he asks his disciples a piercing question in Luke 9:20. Jesus asks, "But who do you say that I am?" Jesus' piercing question is not just theological, it is personal as well. Christ wants a deep and calculated commitment from all of his followers. Faith is not inherited. It is not flippant. Nor is it a means to use God to get what one wants. Luke 9:18-27 shows that faith in Jesus as the Christ is unpopular, from the Father, patient, exercised daily, and unashamed.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To know that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior of God's elect on behalf of his earthly obedience and sacrifice.

Heart

To trust that Christians are saved and sustained by their faith in Jesus Christ.

Hands

To walk forward in faithfulness, in obedience to the rule and commands of Christ, in gratitude for all that he has done for our salvation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership or Baptism:

Contact admin@mosaicboston.com to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

In-Person Worship on August 23:

We will return to in-person worship services on August 23. Keep an eye out for social distancing policies for services in the near future.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Luke 9:18-27

1. How would you define faith? How did this sermon enhance your understanding of faith?
2. Why was it so hard for Peter to accept that Jesus had to go to the cross as Jesus communicated his path to him?
3. Why did Jesus often remind his Jewish audiences not to tell of what they had seen or heard early in his ministry? Why was he careful to gradually reveal his full identity and the direction of his path to the cross to even his disciples?
4. What characteristics of Jesus make it tempting for individuals and movements to appeal to Jesus wrongly as their model/justification for their vision or actions?
5. What are some of the wrong views about Christ's identity that are prevalent in society today?
6. What are the essential attributes of Jesus identity that Christians should unashamedly believe, stand on and defend when challenged or misrepresented by the world? How does this impact the lifestyle of a believer?
6. What does it mean for one to take up their cross daily? How can you more faithfully take up your cross daily? How does the emphasis on "daily" bring relief from anxiety?
7. How does the idea of faith being a gift from the Father simultaneously humble a person and embolden them?
8. What would have happened if Jesus followed Peter's plans and not the Father's? What does this teach you about having patience in God's plan for your life?
9. When we encounter ideas, concepts or commands that counter our personal desires, cultural propensities and/or expectations, how can we respond in a God-glorifying manner?