



INTRODUCING JESUS: THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 9:28-45

Community Group Study Guide Week of July 26, 2020

If chapters 1-8 of Luke do not make it clear that Jesus is the Christ to whom all of the Old Testament Scriptures point, Luke 9 leaves no further question about Jesus' identity. In this chapter, Jesus asks his disciples to tell him what other people are saying about his identity. He then asks his disciples who they think he is. Peter then gives a bold and correct answer, identifying Jesus as "The Christ of God." After approving Peter's answer, Jesus tells his followers of his upcoming suffering, an offensive idea for those in the group who are counting on Jesus to bring about freedom for the Jews from their Roman oppressors. Perhaps even harder to accept, though, are Jesus' words calling his disciples to follow in his footsteps by taking up their own cross daily to follow him on their path to glorification after this life.

The "cost of discipleship" is a call not just for the group of disciples who lived and walked with Jesus, but a call for all Christians of all ages. Knowing this, Jesus gives his disciples a vision to which they shall cling while following their call faithfully. At the Transfiguration, Jesus presents himself in his full glory, along with an affirmation from the Father about his identity, to the disciples who were closest to him, James, John and Peter. Much like the prophet Isaiah's vision of God's glory (Isa. 6), this vision provides Christ's disciples with a reason to be of service to Christ for the rest of their life, an experience that will bring purpose to all of their trials and a hope to hold onto in faith for the future.

Interestingly, the text of Luke 9 brings readers from an extreme high to an extreme low. After making it blatantly clear that Jesus is the Christ at the Transfiguration, Jesus' disciples show an inability to drive out a demon from a child. The passage does not reveal Christ's inability to overpower Satan and his minions, but the lack of prayer completed by the disciples reveals that the most effective weapons for the soldier of Christ are prayer and faith in Christ's works and words.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To know that Jesus is the Christ and that Christian life in this life is war.

Heart

To trust that Jesus is who he said he is and is the "hard copy" version of the Messiah that all the prophets and Old Testament saints longed to see.

Hands

To walk forward in radical faith as we take up our crosses daily, calling upon God in prayer for all things.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-Person Worship on August 23:

We will return to in-person worship services on August 23.

Read this link for more details:

<https://brookline.mosaicboston.com/covid-19?fbclid=IwAR1YWD4kDVIWJQdl>

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Luke 9:28-45

1. How would you respond if someone asked you, "What do you live for?"
2. Why are Christians called to live for Christ? What does it mean to "live for Christ"? What does it look like to "live for Christ"?
3. See Luke 9:21-27. After affirming to the twelve disciples of his identity as "The Christ of God," what surprising news does Jesus reveal to them? What does this mean for the direction of their earthly lives?
4. What is revealed at the Transfiguration? How is a revelation of Christ's glory a source of encouragement for those measuring the "cost of discipleship"?
5. Have you had moments that gave you glimpses of God's glory? How has God used such moments as you've walked forward in the Christian faith?
6. At the top of the mountain, despite their incredible experience, Peter, James and John want to pitch tents and sleep. Why? Why didn't Jesus seem to need to sleep? What does this reveal about what the disciples considered to be most important in that moment?
7. Are you tempted to desire to dwell in locations and situations of spiritual and physical safety? How? What would it look like for you to more faithfully "take up your cross daily"?
8. Immediately after his account of the Transfiguration, Luke provides a story about the disciples struggling to cast a demon out of a boy. What does this story and its strategic position in history and Scripture teach us about Christian life? What does it indicate as the greatest weapon for a Christian?
9. What does the story in Luke 9:37-43 teach us to begin with when we confront all kinds of troubles in life, regardless of their suspected source? Why is it so hard to pray as your first instinct in response to facing difficulties and trials? How is prayer intertwined with faith?
10. Read 2 Peter 1:16-21. What does it mean that, as Christians, we have the "prophetic word more fully confirmed"? How is this truth a source of hope and peace that transcends understanding in a Christian's life?