

A GLIMPSE OF GLORY | LUKE 9:27-36 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 11/23/2025

* I. Peculiar Promise (27) II. Peculiar Prayer Time (28-31) III. Peculiar Perspective (32-33) IV. Peculiar Pronouncement (34-36)

INTRO: Jesus has just predicted His death to His disciples (9:21-22). It was the first of three mentions in Luke's account (cf. 9:43-45; 18:31-34). – His announcement completely caught them off guard! – Jesus then proceeded to teach them of **the Cost of true discipleship**... **DEATH!** *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."* – **Following JESUS... is what discipleship is all about!** – Knowing that this statement was hard for them to comprehend, Jesus **provided insight** to the end result of such sacrifice. – In today's text, Jesus reveals **A GLIMPSE OF HIS GLORY** to a few select disciples... *

I. PECULIAR PROMISE (27) – **READ:** It's obvious that **in due time** all the disciples died. – But here, Jesus declared something peculiar, something different than **Death** and **Suffering**, ... **Something HOPEFUL!**

A. What is Jesus Saying? – In this verse Jesus distinctively promises that **a few disciples** would see the **Kingdom of God**, **BEFORE THEY DIE!** – But what Kingdom event is Jesus speaking of?

1. The word **Kingdom**, {Grk.= **basileia**} can be translated **"Royal Power or Splendor."** In context, it's **the right or authority** to rule over a kingdom!
2. The **EVENT** is often misinterpreted as a reference to: Jesus' resurrection or **ascension**, the manifestation of the Holy Spirit at **Pentecost**, or even the destruction of Jerusalem in **A.D. 70**. – All of which are a stretch because contextually, **all three synoptics** give this same promise of Jesus, **just prior to the transfiguration event** (9:27; Matt 16:28; Mark 9:1). – Therefore, it seems best to interpret Jesus' statement by the event following his promise... **THE TRANSFIGURATION**

B. Who is Jesus Speaking Of? – Jesus promises **that some**, not all, would **see this promise** come to pass. – The next verse identifies the select few as: **Peter, John**, and **James**... those of His inner circle.

- This obscure promise was later understood as a divine privilege granted them. **Peter alluded to this** (2 Pet 1:16), *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.*

P/A – How does this apply to us? **Jesus promises all His disciples that we will see Him again.** – Though we were not granted the privilege that **Peter, John**, and **James** had, **Jesus prayed that we too would experience His eternal weight of glory.** In (John 17:24) Jesus prays for His followers **to be with Him where He is, so they can see His glory that the Father gave Him** because of His love before the world began.

- Jesus' statement was absolute truth! *"For I tell you truly..."* and in **just a few days**, they witnessed it.

II. PECULIAR PRAYER TIME (28-31) – **READ:** *Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings...* – **Matthew** and **Mark's** account declare **"six days,"** while **Luke's** mention of **"eight days"** is approximate. (Probably because he included the time of Peter's **confession** 9:18-20).

A. Allowed Three Disciples (28) – Once again we see that Jesus selects **Peter, John**, and **James** to accompany Him to this **special PRAYER session**. – These were **the ones He allowed to witness the raising of Jairus' daughter** (Luke 8:51). – They would later accompany Him to the **Garden of Gethsemane** (Mark 14:33).

- Jesus prayed **on a mountain** – Tradition says **Mt. Tabor**, but most likely it was **Mt. Hermon**, which is close to where Peter made his confession in **Caesarea Philippi** (Matt 16:13). (Exp Mtn Prayers)

B. Appearance Altered in Prayer (29) – **This prayer time of Jesus was different in many ways:** *As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.*

1. **His COUNTENANCE Changed!** – Luke uses the word **Altered** {Grk.= **heteros**} which denotes *a generic distinction*, but different in character; **Matthew** and **Mark** use the word **Transfigured**, {Grk.= **metamorphoo**} denoting *change into another form*, to **Transfigure** (2x's – Matt 17:2; Mark 9:2), to **Transform** (1x – Rom 12:2), and to **Change** (1x – 2 Cor 3:18 kjv) – **P/A:** – *Prayer will change your countenance too!*

2. **His CLOTHES Changed!** – *His robe became white and glistening.* – The translated phrase presents the idea of *“lightning flashing”* or a *“glistening gleam”* (cf. Matt 17:2). – WOW... *Jesus' Divine Glory* was shown through His garments as radiant white light!

- Jesus **dramatically changed in appearance!** – *He reverted to look more like the King of Glory than a humble man.* – *The same glory that He had before He came into his world* (John 17:5)
- Jesus purposely included these disciples, to present **A Glimpse of His Glory.** – Much later, the apostle John received an even greater **Glimpse of His Glory** in (tt. Rev 1:13-16)

P/A – *Guzik points out that this exposure event was NOT a miracle, “but the temporary pause of an ongoing miracle. The Real Miracle was that Jesus, most of the time, could keep from displaying His Glory”*

C. Appointment with Moses & Elijah (30-31) – *And behold, two men talked with Him, who were **Moses** and **Elijah**,³¹ who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.*

1. **Both Just Appeared (30-31a)** – **Moses**, was the representative of the O.T. Law, and **Elijah** was the representative of the Prophets. – Their appearance was in a sense, **“BEARING WITNESS”** to Him.

- a. Paul says that **the Gospel** he preached was one to which both the Law and prophets bore testimony!
- b. The gospel is **NOT** contrary to the Old Testament at all. – Paul made this clear in this (Rom 3:21), *“But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets”* – The Law and the Prophets reveal that the Only Way God could **“Save Us”** is through the righteousness that we obtain by faith in Jesus Christ! – *Another reason for their appearance was to...*

2. **Both Spoke with Jesus About His Decease (31b)** – i.e., the approaching death of Christ. – The Greek word means *“departure”* – literally *“exodus,”* meaning *“the way out.”*

- a. **Exodus is a beautiful euphemism for death.** – **Elijah** and **Moses** having already made *“their exodus”* from earth to heaven, were anticipating Jesus' exodus via His death and resurrection.
 - Peter used this “term” in speaking of his own departure (tt. 2 Pet 1:12-15).
- b. Jesus had an exodus *“to accomplish.”* – He was about to make a great transition... from His existence on earth to His existence in heaven. **No more detail is provided of their conversation.** *However,...*
 - Jesus Christ accomplished a number of things in death. – His death is seen as a sacrifice that paid the penalty for humanity's sins, making it possible to have a restored relationship with God, win victory over spiritual enemies and secure a future hope for a restored creation.

P/A – Prayer on the mountain brought confirmation by these two fearless and faithful Old Testament saints, who's witness reminded Jesus to complete the task for which He had come.

III. PECULIAR PERSPECTIVE (32-33) – **READ:** *While all this happened, the disciples were asleep!*

A. Asleep or Awake? (32) – Unfortunately, their *“sleeping while praying”* habit began forming here. – Later we would see how this effected these three in the Garden (Matt 26:40), *Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?...”*

- When they awoke, they were surprised by what they saw! – They saw **Jesus, Moses, and Elijah** in a **Glorified state!** – Notice that they **identified Moses and Elijah!** – These were men who lived hundreds of years prior. **This teaches that in a glorified state; people are still recognizable!**
- It's possible that the disciples still *heard a small part of the conversation*, as they were **HEAVY with sleep.** – Perhaps they would have heard more if they **REMAINED AWAKE! (Matt 26:40), Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."**

B. Annoying Assumption (33) – Luke tells us that Peter's comment was **NERVOUS TALK**, as he did not know what he said. **Master... uhm... It's good to be here!** – In an effort to preserve the sacred character of the occasion, **PETER proposed erecting three tabernacles or tents, to honor them** in the moment.

- Peter's suggestion hints of the Jewish **"Feast of Booths,"** which points towards a future kingdom (Lev 23:33-44; Zech 14:16-21) – Maybe He thought to himself... **"This is it!"**
- Peter soon learns of **REBUKE** for suggesting equality between Moses, Elijah, and Jesus. (Prov 17:28) Says, *Better to be thought of as a fool, than to open you're your mouth and remove all doubt!*

P/A – This is the first of several remarks in Luke 9 which suggest that **the disciples have much to learn!** Keep in mind that Jesus is training the Twelve. – **But we should learn from their mistakes!**

IV. PECULIAR PRONOUNCEMENT (34-36) – **READ: While Peter still had his foot in his mouth,** they were **overshadowed** with the cloud of God's glory called in the Old Testament the **Shekinah** (cf. Ex 13:21; 33:18-23; 40:34,35; Num 9:15; 14:14; Deut 9:33, etc.) – **As the cloud slowly approached...** they started to feel the same Awe and Fear that sinners feel when the **bright cloud** drew closer (Matt 17:5).

A. Appearing Cloud (34) – *This cloud is a representation of the presence of God.* – Moses experienced this in (Ex 40:35-38), *And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle...* ³⁸*For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.*

- Interestingly enough, when Jesus ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9), **a Cloud received Him** out of the sight of the disciples! *(Jesus was received to heaven in a glorious way and will return in a glorious way!)*

B. Announcement of the Cloud (35) – *And a VOICE came out of the cloud, saying "This is My beloved Son."* – This is the second heavenly endorsement of Jesus (cf. 3:22). – The reference to the **beloved Son** recalls the words of (Ps. 2:7a); *"...The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'" And (Isa 42:1a); Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights..."*

- Luke enhanced Mark's account to present Jesus as God's Son and Servant, whose own **authority** and significance **greatly surpassed that of Moses and Elijah.**
1. **The Cloud's Command was to Hear Him.** – This alludes to (tt. Deut 18:15–18), identifying Jesus as the Prophet promised in that passage. – Jesus, **as the new Prophet**, would lead a new group of people into salvation (Matt. 21:43; Rom. 11:1–36; 1 Pet. 2:9, 10), just as Moses led the nation of Israel.
 - **The voice also made it clear that Moses and Elijah were not even on the same level as Jesus.** – He is the beloved Son, so **Hear Him!** – Likewise, Jesus Christ is the only One that we are to hear! (tt. Heb 1:1-3).
 2. As a Revealer of God's will, Jesus had much to teach the disciples about God's plan. – The disciples needed to listen because they had much to learn.

C. Affected by the Cloud (36) – *When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone* – God removed Moses and Elijah, so that their focus remained on Christ alone! – **Lesson learned!**

1. ***They told no one!*** – Luke's account makes it seem as if they disciples remained silent about the Transfiguration, of their own decision. – But **(Mark 9:9,10)** provides further insight **revealing that Jesus commanded such silence, till the Son of Man was risen from the dead.** – Mark also makes clear that the disciples **did not yet understand the event.**

2. ***In the days to follow...*** Peter spoke of this event once he had a clear understanding. **(2 Pet 1:16-18),** *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.* ¹⁷ *For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* ¹⁸ ***And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.***

P/A – Peter and the boys Caught a Glimpse of His Glory! And so shall we one day.

CLOSING THOUGHTS: The Transfiguration should be understood as a visual Verification of Jesus's claim to be the Son of Man who will come in the Glory of His Father with the holy angels (Dan 7:10; Mark 8:38)

AS DISCIPLES, God promises us access one day, but He also **conforms us** as we wait – **(2 Cor 3:18)** *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in mirror the glory of the Lord, are being changed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.* (Process and Patience!)

- **(1 Peter 5:10)** *"And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you!"*
- **Paul encourages believers to focus on the unseen,** eternal reality rather than temporary struggles, because *"the light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."* **(2 Cor 4:17-18)**

Do you remember the Christian rock band Third Day? – I want to close with the lyrics of their song:

Show Me Your Glory

*I caught a glimpse of Your splendor, In the corner of my eye
The most beautiful thing I've ever seen
And it was like a flash of lightning', Reflected off the sky
And I know I'll never be the same...*

*Show me Your glory, Send down Your presence... I want to see Your face
Show me Your glory, Majesty shines about You...I can't go on without You, Lord*