

## “The Glory of the Son of Man” Luke 9:18-36

Please Stand and Open Your Bibles to Luke 9:18-22

We are now going to enter into another phase of the ministry of Jesus as He now tells them what is to come. They still will not understand it and cannot and will not until He rises from the dead. We know from Matthew and Mark where Jesus is at when He asks this question...

Matthew 16:13

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

Caesarea Philippi is in the northern part of Israel where the head waters of the sea of Galilee are. It is a place where all kinds of Polytheism were practiced and known for a place of disgusting sexual practices that included child sacrifice. But it was a place where man has named all their “gods”. So, this is the spot they are walking by when Jesus asks a very important question. We are told in our passage that it was when He was praying...

Luke 9:18

And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, “Who do the crowds say that I am?”

I like that. He was alone praying and the disciples joined Him. When you pray are you seeking to be joined with Jesus or just looking to get your way. But the question He would ask us to think about is what do the crowds say He is. You can go out on the street and ask people who Jesus is, and you will get many different answers. Just like they did...

Luke 9:19

So they answered and said, “John the Baptist, but some say Elijah; and others say that one of the old prophets has risen again.”

Moslems will say He was just another prophet, The Mormons say He is the spirit brother of Lucifer, the JW's say He is Michael the Archangel. Many eastern religions say He is an ascended master, one of many. Others say He was a good teacher or a moral guide. Some look at Him as a buddy or a friend that they can call on when they need Him. Some say He's a hoax. The point is nothing has changed. People want to make a God in their own image. One that suits their needs and wants. This is why the second commandment says to not make any graven

images. We all want to make a god in our own image. This is why Jesus asks the most important question that we all need to answer...

Luke 9:20a

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

How you answer that question will determine your eternal destiny. For them it is that Jesus is the Messiah. The King of Israel that has come to save the nation. This is what they have been proclaiming as they went out as we saw last week. But Peter answer’s correctly...

Luke 9:20b

Peter answered and said, “The Christ of God.”

It seems kind of basic here but in Matthew’s account we get the full feel of it.

Matthew 16:16-17

Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Peter was having his aha moment. Jesus you are the Messiah who God has sent into the world. But the only thing missing is why He came.

Luke 9:21-22

And He strictly warned and commanded them to tell this to no one, 22 saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.”

This is the first time they are being told this and they don't see it or want to believe it. We will be told next week it was hidden from them. Why were they to tell no one? Because it was not His time yet. He had to die on the Passover in Jerusalem. His moment of His presentation to the nation will be Palm Sunday not now. We did learn this from Matthew...

Matthew 16:22-23

Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

Boy Peter you went for being inspired by God to being a tool of Satan! That was fast! Anything that would keep Jesus from the cross is an agent of the Devil. Don't look down on him, he didn't know. You would have said the same thing as they all believed that the Messiah was going to show up as a conquering king and not a suffering Savior. We will talk more about this next week. I want to make you aware of one thing that is important. \* It tells us here and in many other places that Jesus would be raised the third day. He also says in another spot that just as Jonah was three nights and three days so the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth. As you can see from this chart that if that were so it would be the fourth day anyway you shake it. This means that three days and three nights is what we would call a Hebrew Idiom. Yes, we take the Bible literally, but we also take into account Idioms too. Nothing to split a church about but you run into those people every Easter that say Jesus had to be crucified on Thursday and that is just not possible as you can see.

Now Jesus says something very radical...

Luke 9:23-25

Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but

whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. 25 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?

This is one of many paradoxes that Jesus says in His teachings. They are extremes that are opposite of what our human nature tells us. To tell someone to take up his cross is like saying to take up your death sentence. The bible is very clear that we need to die to live. Not die physically but to self. There are those that say this is a call to discipleship and not salvation, but I beg to differ. Paul put it like this...

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

When we place our faith and trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins and He grants us the free gift of eternal life you have surrendered your life to Him. Now we can fight that. We can be disobedient. We can stunt our growth by taking charge of ourselves again, but the bottom line is you are no longer your own. When a person comes to the end of themselves and realizes that they are lost and need a Savior they are in essence

surrendering their life to Christ. Now of course the amount that we do is part of the second tense of our salvation where God is setting us apart through sanctification. This why Luke mentions “daily”. Every day I have to put to death this old man. Paul put it like this...

Romans 6:11

Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Maybe you are here today, and you are still holding on to your life. Oh, you say you believe in Jesus, but you have not “died” yet. In order for you to be “Born Again” one must go in the grave with Jesus and be raised with Him to newness of life. What is your life profiting you today? And if that was not convicting enough Jesus goes on to say...

Luke 9:26

For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels.

This is not a loss of awards passage as some might say. This says what it means and means what it says. The early church took this literal as many were tortured to death standing up for

Him. As I have always said if they were to outlaw Christianity would they have enough evidence to convict you? That is a question you have to answer yourself just like the scripture in front of us.

And now because verse 27 connects to 28 we will read it in its context.

The Son of Man in His Glory  
Luke 9:27-36

Now, this is what we call the transfiguration of Christ. This answers the statement that some will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God. Now before we move into this let's deal with the supposed contradiction that some will accuse this story of having. Both Matthew and Mark say this...

Matthew 17:1

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves

Now Luke says...

Luke 9:28



Now it came to pass, **about** eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

You see, no contradiction at all! Luke says it was about 8 days and Matthew and Mark say it was after six. No need to throw out your Bibles.

This is an amazing moment where the big three get to go up on a mountain and see the glorified Christ. Not only that but they get to see two important people, Moses and Elijah! One represents the law and the other the prophets. The fact that they are both there and alive is telling enough but the fact they are talking, and Jesus is telling them what He is about to do. Got to love Peter as he has to get involved. He does not even know what to say so he comes up with this idea that they need to build some tents. Why was this a problem? Because at this moment Peter was equating Jesus with Moses and Elijah. There is no comparison! This is why at that moment God the Father jumps in and reminds them...

Luke 9:35

And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!”

Jesus is the focus. All the Law and the Prophets can do is point people to Jesus. Of course they will need to learn all this. We have some better context in Matthew

### Matthew 17:6-9

And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, “Arise, and do not be afraid.” When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.”

They did not understand it then, but they will. Once Jesus dies for the sins of the world and rises from the dead, they will see Him as He is meant to be. They will know that He will come again as they had seen on the mountain. Peter would remember this moment and remind people of it when he wrote...

### 2 Peter 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. 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.” And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

Jesus came and He is coming again. Peter saw it and is now telling you that he did not make it up. Jesus is not a fairy tale. He not someone that was made into being someone that He is not. This why Peter would go on to say...

2 Peter 1:19-21

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

God has given us His word. He has fulfilled it through the work of Christ and He is coming again. But you must be willing to give Him your life. Are you willing to do that today?