

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"THE GLORY OF CHRIST"

For individual study or group discussion

DATE: June 12, 2022

SPEAKER: Frank/Chad

SERIES: Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 9:28-36

Family Dinner Table

A Glimpse of Glory

While witnessing the Transfiguration of Jesus, the disciples are emboldened by the glimpse of the glory of God they see in the person of Jesus Christ. Similarly, in John Bunyan's tale *Pilgrim's Progress*, Christian and Hopeful get a glimpse of the glory of the Celestial City when they encounter shepherds near the Delectable Mountains. The shepherds take them to a high hill called Clear and hand them a telescope, offering hope to the weary travelers: "Then said the Shepherds one to another, 'Let us here show to the Pilgrims the gates of the Celestial City, if they have skill to look through our perspective glass.' The Pilgrims then lovingly accepted the motion; so they had them to the top of a high hill, called Clear, and gave them their glass to look. Then they essayed to look, but the remembrance of that last thing that the Shepherds had showed them, made their hands shake; by means of which impediment, they could not look steadily through the glass; yet they thought they saw something like the gate, and also some of the glory of the place. Then they went away, and sang this song—

*Thus, by the Shepherds, secrets are reveal'd,
Which from all other men are kept conceal'd
Come to the Shepherds, then, if you would see
Things deep, things hid, and that mysterious be.*"²

- As a family, read [Pilgrim's Progress](#) together this summer.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

PCA Administrative Committee,
denominational partner ministry
PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Annette & Tim Gulick, supported missionary partners, serving Christ's church by training, mentoring, and developing resources for those who disciple youth and serve their families.

"He was bright as the lightning on the mountain, and became more luminous than the sun, initiating us into the mystery of the future."

Gregory of Nazianzus

On the heels of the weighty message "Take up your cross and follow me" from Luke 9:23-26, today's account of the Transfiguration details the remarkable revelation of the Son's glory displayed to his disciples, providing a compelling basis for the Christian's hope. According to theologian and author J.I. Packer, the Transfiguration should instill a longing in the hearts of God's people:

*"The transformation that the divine-human Lord underwent as he prayed (Luke 9:29) was from one standpoint a taste of things to come: it was a momentary transition from the concealing of his divine glory that marked his days on earth to the revealing of that glory when he returns and we see him as he is. It was a transition too from humanity as it is in us now to what it will be on Resurrection Day (Philippians 3:20-21)."*¹

- The disciples needed to witness Jesus' glory in order to fully understand his identity as the Son of God. Jesus' earlier prediction of his suffering and death had confused them (v. 22). Why is it important to integrate Jesus' suffering with his glory? (Philippians 2:6-11)
- Luke tells us that when Jesus was praying, "the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white" (v. 29). What does Christ's alteration reveal to you? See also Hebrews 1:1-3 & Revelation 1:12-16.

We read in verses 32-33 that Peter, James, and John are startled to attention by the astonishing scene before them; so much so that the reactionary response of Peter is to build three booths: one each for Moses, Elijah, and Jesus (v. 33). In Peter's response, we notice that somehow he forgets the confession he made a week earlier, "You are the Christ of God" (v. 20), because Peter hastily proposes to place Moses and Elijah on the same level as the Savior.

- If Moses represents the Law and Elijah the Prophets, how is Christ the fulfillment of both? (Matthew 5:17)
- Jesus' physical transformation gives the disciples a "sneak peek" of the glory of God behind the veil in the person of Christ (cf. Hebrews 1:3-4). Moses and Elijah stand nearby and talk with Jesus. Read Deuteronomy 18:15-18 and Malachi 4:5-6. What would you say is the significance of Moses and Elijah's presence on the mountain with Jesus?
- Read Exodus 33:18-23 and 1Kings 19:11-13a. In these Old Testament accounts, both Moses and Elijah witness the glory of God, although hidden. Now both men "who appeared in glory" are speaking to Jesus face to face. What hope does their presence give you concerning the resurrection? (John 11:25-27)

In verses 34-36 we are told that a voice from "out of a cloud" said, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" The decisive declaration by the Father of Jesus' divine identity is underscored by his command to listen and obey the Son.

- Only two times in the Gospels does the Father speak to Jesus from heaven: during his baptism (3:21-22) and the transfiguration. Read Deut. 18:15, Psalm 2: 7, and Isaiah 42:1-4. What is God the Father telling us about Jesus' identity?
- Luke tells us that the three disciples didn't speak of this incredible moment to anyone until after Jesus had died and risen from the dead. The *Gospel of Mark* alludes to why they didn't speak. Read Mark 9:9-13. Why was it important for the disciples to understand the resurrection before they could fully understand the transfiguration?
- After Christ's resurrection and ascension, the three disciples discerned the significance of the Transfiguration that they witnessed. Both Peter and John later wrote about it. Take time this week to read and meditate on their eyewitness accounts. See 2 Peter 1:16-19 and John 1:14-34.

¹Packer, J.I. *Concise Theology: A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1993. 123.

²Bunyan, John. *Pilgrim's Progress*. Minneapolis, MN: Desiring God, 2014. <https://document.desiringgod.org/the-pilgrim-s-progress-en.pdf?ts=1446648353>