

A Vision of Unveiled Glory

Luke 9:28–36

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. As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him. Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, that Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!” When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen.

Main Point

Jesus’ glory reveals Jesus’ deity.

I. Introduction

- A. We are at the dawn of a new year. We do not know what the new year will bring. But we as Christians do know this: (1) God *is*, and (2) God *has spoken*. God exists as the sovereign King Who rules over all and He has spoken to us through the holy Scriptures which are sufficient for each area of life we face.
- B. We know that Christ is the Word of God incarnate (cf. John 1:14). Jesus is the One through whom God has spoken (Heb. 1:2). While on earth Christ humbled Himself and took on the form of a slave (Phil. 2:7). The full splendor the Sovereign Lord was momentarily veiled.
- C. In helping Theophilus understand the identity of Jesus, Luke now turns his gaze to an event—a significant event—in the life of Christ. This event not only displays in no uncertain terms the unveiled glory of Christ but it also moves any thinking person to respond to that vision—one way or another.

II. Exposition

- A. Prayer on the Mount (9:28)
 1. The Mount was possibly Mount Hermon (some have suggested Mount Sinai) but ultimately no one knows for certain since Scripture is silent on that point.
 2. Christ routinely communed with the Father in prayer before a significant event in His ministry (e.g., in the Garden of Gethsemene before His Passion; Luke 22:39–46).
- B. Glory on the Mount (9:29–33)

1. Christ Transformed
 - a) The white and glistening nature of the transfiguration of Christ represents both His purity and His holiness—the *otherness* the Messiah.
 - b) Many Jewish people would instantly think of Moses on Mount Sinai (Exod. 34:29–35). The cloud descending upon the mountain instantly brings to mind the cloud of Exodus 40:34–38 and 2 Chronicles 7:1–4.
 - c) This vision of Jesus will be viewed by all people one day in the future (cf. Rev. 19:11–16).

2. Christ Accompanied

- a) The Messengers
 - (1) Moses—A representation of the *Law*
 - (2) Elijah—A representation of the *Prophets*
 - (3) *Jesus is greater and more glorious than even the most revered of Jewish prophets.*
- b) Their Message — the coming *exodus* of Christ in Zion
- c) Peter’s Error — Jesus is like Moses and Elijah (“lets build three tents”)

- C. Proclamation on the Mount (9:34–36)

1. The Announcement of the Father: “This is my beloved Son; hear him.”
 - a) Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah.
 - b) Jesus is the one to whom all must submit to and listen (cf. Deut. 18:15).
2. The pronouncement brings to mind the Servant Song: “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One *in whom* My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.” (Is. 42:1)
3. The glorious vision ends—and Christ commands his disciples to tell no one until after His resurrection (Matt. 17:9).

III. Truths

- A. Prayer is vital for every Christian. *Spend time in prayer communing with your Lord.*
- B. Christ is the glorious, majestic Son of the Living God. *Submit joyfully to your King.*