

Jesus Appears: In Glory

Luke 9:28-36 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 14 February 2021

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: What things/people/events/experiences would you describe as glorious and why?

Worship: [Psalm 34:4-6](#) (*Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation to you?*)

Sermon Summary for [Luke 9:28-36](#) (*Read the passage aloud before reading the sermon summary.*)

The Transfiguration marks a turning point for Jesus: between bringing the light and life of God's Kingdom to earth and when Christ begins His journey toward the cross. Luke has been showing us what Jesus came to do – to preach and teach, to heal, to call ordinary people to follow Him. But who Jesus is – God come to earth in human flesh – has largely been “kept under wraps” since His birth. Here, though, God's glory is fully manifest in Him. We need to remember: all glory belongs to God, flowing from Him. And all glory is due to Him. Jesus came to reveal the Father's glory to us, so that we might exult, wonder, and marvel at it. How does He accomplish this?

In Prayer // Throughout the Gospels, Jesus is constantly praying. And if the perfect Son of God needed continuous prayer, clearly we need it too. Desperately. Jesus made an ordinary life habit of prayer. So can we. To do so is a blessing. Because sometimes, something amazing and glorious happens. God breaks through into our world. It might mean we find ourselves overwhelmed by the glory of His death for us. Or we are amazed by answered prayer. Or at the privilege of prayer itself and how God uses it to bless the world. All of this is true. But we need to keep in mind that prayer is hard work. Even the disciples constantly struggled with it. So rather than beat ourselves up over it, we ought to devote thoughtful time to it, loving the work as we would tending and caring for a garden.

By The Company Around Him // Two titans of the Old Testament appear alongside Jesus at His Transfiguration: Moses (representing God's law) and Elijah (representing the prophets of God). They demonstrate that everything God was about before the coming of Jesus was always about Jesus Himself. They prepared the way for Him... and now honor Him as Christ's glory is revealed. The glory of God in Christ is therefore given to be shared – to light us up as we reflect it back to Him, just as Moses' face used to shine after He conversed with God. Even now, as we look to Jesus' glory, we are changed ([2 Cor 3:18](#)). And as we look ahead to the season of Lent, it is a time to take an ever deeper look at Jesus that we might find renewal, and be changed, and experience more of His glory.

From a Voice // After the appearance of Moses and Elijah, the very presence of God the Father descends in a cloud to envelop Jesus and His disciples. God's voice declares, “*This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to Him*” (v35). But how are the disciples able to safely experience this? Throughout the Bible, God's people are warned to make sure they stay away from direct contact with the Living God. But here, through Jesus, the glory of God has been made accessible. In Christ we are blessed by God's glory and presence. And so we listen to and obey Jesus because we have been graced with the privilege to. Just as all of Creation finds Christ and His glory as its center, we too are to place Him at the very center of our lives.

Through His Conversation with Moses and Elijah (v31) // A moment is coming that was ordained before time began. Jesus prepares for this: a greater Exodus than God worked through Moses. Because it won't be Egyptians defeated, but sin and death and misery and evil, which could only be won through eternal, weighty loss – humiliating betrayal, excruciating death, separation from God, and the darkness of the grave. This is what Christ speaks with Moses and Elijah about. He needed this moment before He went down the mountain. And so do we – to get but a glimpse of His glory, which defies all explanation. It just needs to be gazed at, wondered over. Because if we want to share in His glory, we too must share in His cross ([Matt 16:24-26](#)).

Discussion Questions (You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.)

Jesus Reveals God's Glory in Prayer - Luke 9:28-29:

- What is glory? How would you describe God's glory in your own words?
- How is Jesus the full representation of God's glory ([Hebrews 1:1-4](#); [John 1:14-18](#))?
- What can we learn about Jesus' prayer life? ([Luke 9:18](#), [9:28](#); [11:1](#)) What is the application for us?
- Have you ever experienced Jesus' glory in prayer or in answer to prayer?

By His Company and Conversation - Luke 9:30-32:

- Imagine yourself in this scene. How do you feel or react? Why did Peter respond the way he did?
- What is the significance of Moses and Elijah's appearance? What did they talk about?
- Discuss how Christ's departure/exodus is far greater than the exodus of the Old Testament.
- What do you make of the idea that the whole Transfiguration moment is an answer to Jesus' prayers? Why might He have needed an answer like this from God the Father?

With a Voice - Luke 9:33-35 :

- What is the significance of the cloud in this scene? What was God's message to the disciples?
- Why do we need this message? What is God saying to us? To you? To your CG?
- Where in your life does Jesus want you to listen to Him and begin to follow Him in a fresh way? (*Maybe what you read or watch, how you speak, pride, judgmentalism, self righteousness, self sufficiency.*)
- What strengthens your faith and encourages you from this message or passage?

Prayer

In prayer, contemplate the glory of Christ and the wonders of all He has done to bring you into fellowship with God. Ask Him to help you walk in new patterns of obedience and to listen closely to Him.

For the weekly Prayer Guide click [HERE](#).

Engage & Experience: Generous Grace - Justice

To practice Generous Justice is to practice God's command to care for the poor and oppressed. This is a biblical mandate as seen in such verses as [Leviticus 23:22](#); [Deuteronomy 15:7,11](#); [Psalm 2:5](#); [James 1:27](#) and so many more. Generous Justice is part of living Jesus' way; ([Acts 4:32-35](#)) and an important aspect of loving and serving God ([Acts 2:42-47](#)).

Have a discussion about how people tend to view or treat the poor, oppressed, or those different from them. Is justice something we just talk about? How should we engage in acts of justice? Are the vulnerable populations of particular interest to God? If we don't serve and share resources with the under-resourced, are we being unjust? Describe the beauty of justice you have witnessed and how you can walk in new patterns of obedience in justice.

Generous Justice Resources

- Bible - [Proverbs 28:5](#)
- Book by Tim Keller, [Generous Justice](#) – [HERE](#)
- Small Group Study Guide to Generous Justice, [Conversations in Justice](#) [HERE](#)
- [Doing Justice and Mercy](#) sermon by Tim Keller (42 Min.) [HERE](#)