

A GLIMPSE OF GLORY

Text: Luke 9:28–36

—Bill Turner

‘God is not God of the Dead—but of the living’

Introduction:

1. As soon as the disciples realize Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God...
2. He tells them He must go to Jerusalem to be rejected, to suffer and put to death
3. Now He shows the glory that awaits those who take up their cross to follow Him

1. A GLIMPSE OF JESUS' GLORY (v.28-29)

A. JESUS WENT TO THIS MOUNTAIN TO PRAY

1. Jesus did not face all His difficulties and decisions alone...
2. Jesus went to the Father in prayer...
3. If Jesus faced difficult decisions with prayer—shouldn't we?

B. WHILE HE IS PRAYING HE BEGINS RADIATING LIGHT

1. The Majesty and Splendor of Jesus was so incredible that the disciples struggled for the words to describe it...
 - a) LUKE: As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe *became white and glistening*. (9:29)
 - b) MATTHEW: He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. (17:2)
 - c) MARK: There he was transfigured before them. ³His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.
2. If you've ever stared at the sun or seen a meteor burn across the night sky—it burns a trace in your retina that's hard not to see...

C. THEY SAW A GLIMPSE OF JESUS SHINING IN GLORY!

1. JOHN: "We beheld His glory..." (John 1:14)
2. PETER: "We were eyewitnesses to His majesty..." (2 Pet. 1:16)
3. PAUL: Confronted by the Brightness of the Risen Jesus, was blinded by a light far brighter than the mid-day sun above Damascus!
4. JOHN: On Island of Patmos was allowed to See Jesus in Glory...
 - He held 7 stars in His right hand...
 - His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. (Rev 1:16)
 - and John was so overwhelmed that he fell at His feet as if dead
 - Just for point of reference:** If just the head of a pin was heated to the core temperature of the sun, it would kill all living things within 1,000 mi.
 - But Jesus placed His right hand on John and said, **Do Not Be Afraid.**
5. It seems like a miracle—but the greater miracle is Jesus Keeping His Glory Hidden in plain sight! The Week of the cross—He prayed to the Father (Jn 17:4–5)

2. A GLIMPSE BEHIND THE VEIL OF DEATH (v.30)

A. THEN TWO MEN—MOSES AND ELIJAH APEAR IN GLORY

1. Moses Had Been Dead for almost 1,500 Years!
2. Elijah had left this earth almost 1,000 years before this
3. How is this possible?

B. THE BIBLE IS CLEAR ABOUT THE FACT OF LIFE AFTER DEATH—

1. This is one of the most amazing accounts of scripture...

All Those Who Have Ever Lived and Died and Alive RIGHT NOW!

- a) We were created in the IMAGE OF GOD... with a Spirit that exists forever
2. The Sadducees didn't believe in the resurrection, so they tried to challenge Jesus w/ trick questions to mock the idea of life after death...
 - a) Jesus said, Have you not read the scriptures? When God told Moses
"I Am the God of Abraham, the God of Issac and the God of Jacob..."
 - b) Abraham, Issac and Jacob had already Died! — But They Were Not Dead...
 3. Then Jesus said: '*God is not God of the Dead—but of the living*'

C. DEATH DOES NOT...

1. Does Not End Our Existence...

- a) The Body returns to the dust, the spirit returns to God who created it (Ecc. 12:7)
- b) No "annihilation" from Existence
- c) No "absorption" into some impersonal energy life force

2. Does Not End Our Personal Identity...

- a) Moses and Elijah are Identified as Individuals
- b) Not absorbed into some impersonal life force
- c) Moses is still Moses... Elijah is still Elijah... but in a new glorified state

3. Does Not End Our Consciousness...

- a) No "soul-sleep"... or unconscious state...
- b) Moses and Elijah are ALIVE and AWARE and speaking with Jesus!
- c) They Are Aware / Conscious of who Jesus is and What He is facing

4. Death Does Not End Our Place in God's Plan...

- a) Notice How Moses and Elijah are encouraging Jesus in this final Battle!
-

3. SAINTS IN GLORY AWARE OF JESUS ATONING DEATH (v.31)

A. MOSES & ELIJAH ARE ALIVE AND SPEAKING TO JESUS...

1. They had lived on earth centuries before—and now are in a glorified state!
2. Moses was not allowed into the promise land—and could only see it from the top of Mount Nero where he died.
3. Elijah was one of only two people who had been allowed to be caught up to heaven without experiencing death.

4. But Jesus the Son of God, Who Left the Glory of Heaven to take on Human Flesh in the form of a servant, will die a terrible death...

a) A Death so Inhumane that only very few would have to experience

5. Moses Represents the LAW — Elijah Represents the Prophets...

a) Which is Fitting Because it was the Law and the Prophets that Pointed to Christ!

B. THESE SAINTS IN GLORY WERE AWARE OF JESUS ATONING DEATH

1. I always wonder what they spoke about...

a) Mathew and Mark Don't Tell us... But Luke Does!

b) They spoke of Jesus death and departure from earth

c) The Word is translated Decease (NKJ) and Departure (NIV)

2. They are speaking with Jesus about His crucifixion and resurrection which will take place in Jerusalem

3. Moses and Elijah are Both Encouraging Jesus in this final battle with Death—against the enemy who uses the fear of death against us

C. JESUS ATONING DEATH WAS FOR THE SINS OF ALL HUMANITY

1. The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world...

a) So Even these OT Saints who are talking to Jesus of His Atoning Sacrifice...
—which even they themselves are depending on!

b) The blood of bulls and goats was not enough to take away sin...

**2. God Chose to Provide the PERFECT Sacrifice for sin—
—through the death, of His Own Son!**

4. THE LIMITED UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISCIPLES (v.32-33)

A. JESUS HAD BEEN PRAYING INTO THE NIGHT...And the Disciples Had Fallen Asleep and Were Just Waking Up...

1. What they Witnessed was so incredible they were Frightened and Struggling to Comprehend it!

a) Mark: "because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid."

b) And Luke: Peter was "...not knowing what he said."

B. PETER STARTS MAKING SUGGESTIONS!

1. Lets Build Three Tabernacles...

—Was He thinking Moses and Elijah needed a tent for shelter?

2. Let's Build Three Tabernacles...

—Was he wanting to build a Shrine for a Memorial of this?

3. We don't Know What Peter was Thinking—

—Because PETER Didn't Even Know What He Was Thinking!

C. POINT FOR US: WE ALSO NEED TO WAKE UP!

1. Unless We Wake Up—We Won't Understand Whats Really Going On!

a) We Can Become So Distracted by the things of the World...

b) So Pre-Occupied by Meaningless Material

2. That We Miss the Deep Spiritual Truth of God's Eternal Plan from before Time began!

- a) (Have you ever tried to stay awake driving?)
- b) On Long Road Trips: My job stay caffeinated – Lisa's job to keep me awake)

5. THE ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHRIST (v.34-36)

A. WHILE PETER IS STILL SPEAKING—A BRIGHT CLOUD DESCENDS

1. Mathew says it was A Bright Cloud—like a cloud of light
2. This is what the Jews Called the Shekinah Glory...

A Visible Manifestation of God's Glory surrounded them!

- Like the **Pillar of Cloud** by day and **Pillar of Fire** by night in Wilderness
- Like the **Smoke** that Filled the Temple When it was Dedicated by King Solomon
- Like the **Burning Bush** that Moses witnessed in the Desert...
- And the **Wind that Tore the Rocks** when Elijah was on the Mountain (1 Ki 19:11–12)

B. THEY'RE ENVELOPED BY A BRIGHT CLOUD OVERSHADOWING THEM

1. And a voice came out of the cloud, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"
2. **Matthew:** "And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." ⁸ When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.
3. IF There Had Been Any Doubt of Jesus True Identity—It's Now Gone!

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God Who Has Come to Save the World!

C. JESUS HAS ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH...

1. Many good and not so good men have lived on earth...
But Please Do Not Try to Put them in the same category as Jesus.
 - a) Mohammad, Ghandi, Budda, Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Eddy, Plato, Einstein,
 - b) Whoever Your Human Celebrity is... They Couldn't Save You —
—and They Never Wanted to Anyway!
2. Paul said: **Even if we or an angel from heaven were to preach any other gospel then that which was preached – let him be accursed!**
3. Only Jesus Left the Glory of Heaven to Take on the Form of a Servant
 - a) Not to be Served but to Serve and Give His Life as an Atoning Sacrifice to Save Your Soul From Eternal Darkness.
4. Jesus Accomplished this at the Cross (John 17:1–5)

CONCLUSION:

1. Our Salvation came at a terrible cost—that was paid in full by Jesus...
2. He Left the Glory of Heaven so we could enter the glory of heaven!
3. He Became Like us So That We Can Become Like Him! (1 John 3:2)