

Luke 9:27-36

Christ's Glory

Good morning, church.

It is great to be back with you this morning.

This morning we are going to continue in our Verse-By-Verse study of the Gospel of Luke.

We will be in Luke chapter 9, verses 27-36, our message is titled 'Christ's Glory.'

Let's pray before we get into our study.

Now there are many milestones that one experiences in this life.

We are going through many of them all at once in our household right now.

Our baby is crawling, and jamming around the house in a walker, and she has two teeth popping through on her upper gums.

Freedom her brother just this week decided he was too big for diapers, and he is potty training, which means we only have one in diapers now, that is a huge savings.

He is even making it through the night now, so like that he is done, moving on to the next milestone.

He has also given himself a Nickname that just might stick.

If you call Freedom by his name, he will now correct you and say, “My Name is Boy!”

He has no confusion on who God made him.

In fact, I was a little curious yesterday at how he came about to wanting to be called this.

I asked, “What makes you a Boy?”

Thinking he would point out obvious anatomy differences.

But he replied, “God makes me a Boy.”

3 years old, and he is smarter than most professors in our universities are today.

So a name change, to his new nickname, is a huge milestone.

Lola, just last week asked if we could take her training wheels off her bike, and she fearlessly started riding like a big girl.

Sofia our oldest has lost her first two baby teeth, and is leading the way in all the new milestones.

She is growing up so fast, and teaching us a lot as the oldest.

She will most likely be the first to learn how to drive, the first to go to Prom, with her dad right there with her.

Being the oldest, she might even be the first to convince me to let her get married to some chump, that will never be good enough for her.

So many milestones ahead for our family, first jobs, first heartbreak, so many milestones, that lead to the next phase in life.... some not so important, some very important, and some will be life altering.

Each milestone will be a landmark, a place of remembrance to get us to the next landmark.

Each one is a completion of all the lessons before, and a culmination of much work coming together, and kind of breaking through to the next chapter in life.

Well, in our text this morning, the disciples will come to a monumental milestone in their learning with Jesus.

Last time we were together, they had learned the greatest truth of the tenure with Jesus.

They have learned a truth that most of them will die for.

They have gained the understanding of the ultimate truth, that this group of men will lay down their lives to promote and preach.

There in Caesarea Philippi Jesus asked the profound question that would lead them to this understanding.

Luke 9:20 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said, "The Christ of God."

Jesus was the Promised Jewish Messiah, the Savior of the World, the Chosen One of God, and this revelation would have sent shockwaves through their soul.

And they would have been filled with adrenaline, and excitement, as in their minds they were now about to establish the Kingdom of God here on earth.

But they only had a moment to relish upon the thrill of this idea of being a disciple of the Messiah, because Jesus almost immediately tells them what it means for Himself and His followers.

And the high that the Apostles were experiencing would instantly be hit with sobering news, as Jesus then tells them that He will be rejected as the Messiah, by the ruling Jews, and they will actually kill Him, and the disciples will have very fuzzy memories when Jesus does die.

They missed the very important part were Jesus said at the end of verse 21 that He would be raised on the third day.

The news of His resurrection was lost, because Jesus then told these men what this all meant for them.

Jesus explained there would be no immediate positions of dignity or respect.

Luke 9:23-26 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? 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.

Jesus gave them the true fate of those who would choose to follow Him in this fallen world.

There was a cross to bear for each follower of Christ. Understand He came first to suffer and die for man's sin.

This is the only salvation from the fallen ruler of this world right now.

The same evil that hung Jesus on that cross, will be quick to come after those who choose Jesus' Kingdom in this life.

But Jesus rose again, He returned to glory.

And death in this life is not the end, but really the beginning.

There is an eternity promised to those who forsake their lives here and now, and choose to live for the next.

Now on His Last night with His beloved disciples, Jesus gave a wonderful promise to them, and all who would believe after them.

John 14:1-4 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know."

And in this life, we live with the hope of the next.

And that hope makes this life blessed, and all the sacrifice so worth it, as we long for what is to come.

So after this great milestone in the disciples learning, it seems Jesus knows now that the next and final chapter of His ministry is upon Him.

And after that great revelation, we saw that very mysterious verse in Luke chapter 9 verse 27...

Jesus Transfigured on the Mount

9:27 But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the kingdom of God."

Some of the disciples are promised that they would see the kingdom of God before they died.

And of course many of them did see the birth of the church at Pentecost, and they witness the Power of the Gospel as it spread across our world, and completely changed the whole landscape of our earth, and here

even 2000 years later, the kingdom of God is still impacting and saving multitudes from the misery of this fallen kingdom that currently holds the title deed to earth.

But as we will see this morning, this promise to the disciples had an immediate meaning as well.

The time after this saying, Jesus will give the disciples many days to kind of meditate on all that was said there in Caesarea Philippi, and after those many days of contemplation, Jesus will take His inner circle up on a mountaintop and He will give them a glimpse of the raw glory that is to come.

This next scene is the greatest milestone, as it will impact the disciples until the end of their ministry, and will be a focal point of faith for especially Apostle Peter.

Where he recounts this scene in **2 Peter 1:16-18**

16 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. 17 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." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

This is a monumental Milestone, where these 3 men got to see the Glory of God up close, possibly closer than anyone in History.

Now before we go on into the text, I first want to give us a deeper understanding of this Glory, to help us understand the hugeness of this encounter we are about to read this morning.

Paul said of the nation of Israel in **Rom 9:4-5**

4 who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; 5 of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.

This nation alone had the privilege of witnessing the Glory the Shekinah Glory of God.

They first saw this when Pharaoh released them from their captivity, it was in the form of a Pillar of Glory.

Ex 13:21-22 And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. 22 He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.

God very visibly showed the slave nation that He was with them and leading them with this Pillar shaped Glory Cloud.

Even during the evening as the sun was setting, the Glory Cloud would be a dazzling display of fiery brilliance.

They followed the Glory Cloud through their wanderings in the wilderness as they journeyed toward the Promised Land.

Now, as they escaped the army of Egypt, and they came to the other side of the Red Sea, there was a very special and intimate encounter with the Glory Cloud.

Moses as he went up on Mt. Sinai and received the tablets of stone containing the Decalogue or Ten Commandments.

Moses had to set up barriers, and keep the people at a distance, and the sight of God's Presence was overwhelming for the people.

Remember the people were terrified **Ex 20:18-21**

18 Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. 19 Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."

20 And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." 21 So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.

Now, Moses was in the mountain many days and received the new law from God, and instructions on how to build the tabernacle.

And God ended that spectacular session with Moses by handing Him the tablets written by the finger of God.

Of course when Moses returned he found the orgy taking place around the golden calf and the tablets were broken.

But in Exodus 33 and 34 we see a discouraged Moses, as he was instructed to make the second set of tablets.

And Moses would go regularly to meet with God at the Tent of Meeting, and when he would the Glory Cloud would come down and remain at the entrance of the tent.

Moses in chapter 33 boldly asks the Lord to show him His Glory.

God then granted Moses this privilege and shoved him into a cleft of a rock to protect him from death.

And as the Lord's Glory passed by He covered Moses with His hand and took it away to allow Moses to see His back.

Moses saw the afterglow of God's Glory.

Moses was overwhelmed and in awe, and he stayed there 40 days and chiseled the Law of God as it was dictated to him.

He did not know the effects of seeing God's Glory, that it caused his own face to glow radiant with God's Glory.

Now as Moses' face began to lose its radiance overtime, God created a meeting place where His Glory could be revisited.

The Tabernacle, which every detail of its fabric and material was given to Moses from God to follow precisely.

The Glory of the Tabernacle brings Exodus to its final chapter.

Where we read **Ex 40:34-38** Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 35 And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 36 Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. 37 But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. 38 For the cloud of the Lord was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

The Glory rested in the heart of the Tabernacle in the Holy of Holies where Aaron the high priest would enter

one day of the year on the Day of Atonement and present the Blood of the Lamb.

Now the Tabernacle was a tent made for setting up and tearing down, and it was constantly on the move through the wilderness journey, and when they came into the Promise Land, its final resting place seems to be Shiloh.

But a king arose in Israel, who had the desire to build a Great Home and Worship center for Israel's God, however, King David was denied the privilege, but his son Solomon was entrusted to build the monumental Temple in Jerusalem.

And it was at the dedication of this Great First Temple we see the Glory Cloud again.

2 Chron. 7:1-3 When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. 2 And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house. 3 When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the Lord on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the Lord, saying:

"For He is good,
For His mercy endures forever."

A spectacular scene.

It stunned Solomon, as the Greatness of God became an overwhelming reality for him, he prayed...

1 Kings 8:27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!

Solomon knew that God could not be contained, but His Glory was with them.

Yet overtime, Solomon forgot his humble beginnings. And overtime, the Temple no longer brought glory to God, but was a trophy for men.

We see this when a visitor arrives in... 2 Chron. 9:3-7

3 And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, 4 the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers and their apparel, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her.

5 Then she said to the king: "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. 6 However I did not believe their words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half of the greatness of your wisdom was not told me. You exceed the fame of which I heard.

Now, this great temple became a place to honor man's greatness, and Israel's history is sadly a slow decline and decent away from God's Glory.

And as the religion of Israel became corrupt and mixed and debased the Glory of God faded off into a distant memory.

He would not share His Glory with any other god, and by the time the prophet Ezekiel comes on the scene, He receives a vision of God's Glory departing from the Temple altogether.

In chapters 10-11 of Ezekiel, we see a slow departure of God's Glory until the prophet records **Ezek. 11:23**
And the glory of the Lord went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain, which is on the east side of the city.

For six hundred years, the Temple was destroyed and rebuilt multiple times, but we never see the Glory of God return.

In fact, it would not be until the announcement of a New Age coming upon the earth would the Glory return to visit earth.

The announcement was not even at the Temple to the priests, but in the fields and to the most unlikely characters.

Luke 2:8-12 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord

stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

The Shekinah Glory returned with the Christ Baby's arrival.

And there were glimpses of this Glory, but the Christ Child would grow into a Man, and for 30 years the Glory was concealed.

But as His ministry began at the age 30, there has been a build up to the revelation of who Jesus was and is.

Luke has been leading us to it for the past few weeks, as we saw Jesus was Lord over Nature, over sickness, over the paranormal world, as we saw Jesus was Lord over Life and Death, and even showing that He is Creator, as He multiplied the bread for a multitude of listeners.

And finally, the revelation out of Peter's mouth, "You are the Christ of God!"

Then the announcement of death, and a call to self-denial that filled the disciples with confusion.

Which leads us to eight days now after the conversation.

Where the concealed Glory will be unveiled, and Christ would give these men the greatest Hope and Revelation to encourage their heavy-laden hearts.

The Glory of God is found in the only begotten of the Father.

Look now at verse 28 and 29 with me...

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. 29 As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.

So here, we are many days past the great revelation of who Jesus of Nazareth really was.

And once again Jesus is on His way to a prayer time.

But here He does not go alone, He takes His three disciples that make up His inner circle.

These three will get a special privilege and after this amazing revelation, they will be told to keep it to themselves until after the Resurrection.

Really, this is one of those things that will be so supernatural and really out of this world, I imagine these guys had no trouble keeping a lid on things, out of fear of the others thinking they might be foolish or insane.

I remember one day Pastor Jacob Lane and I were coming back from teaching a Bible Study with some Armenian Youth.

And I am not sure how it happen, but at that Bible Study the topic somehow got on UFO's and the Paranormal, and of course I tried to steer things to a Biblical explanation.

I told them how Satan is referred to the prince and power of the air, and some of those things that cannot be explained just might be demonic manifestations instead of UFOs.

Now, I could see Pastor Jacob was a little hesitant to jump on the supernatural bandwagon with me.

So on the way home, we were talking more about it, and he was explaining how he was skeptical.

I am not kidding, there were some clouds that night in the sky with a full moon, so you could see the bright night sky clearly.

And as we were coming into Apple Valley, a light shot through the clouds straight down like a falling star, now that could be explained, but then it came just below the cloud line and shot right back up.

Now we were both afraid to ask, "Hey did you see that?"

We did not want to be the crazy one.

So I spoke, and said, “Can an airplane do what I just saw?”

He replied, “Nope.” So I said “you saw that then right?”

“That was not a falling star.” He said “impossible.”

If you know Pastor Jacob over there in Apple Valley, he is about the most rational person.

So we made a covenant that night to share with no one our experience, because we did not want to sound crazy.

Unfortunately, for us I needed a sermon illustration.

Sometimes things happen so spectacular, so past our human reasoning, that it is just simply easier to keep it to yourself.

“Yeah pastor, you should have kept that to yourself.”

I just know now someone is going to make me a tin foil hat.

But the disciples probably did not share, because who would really believe them.

So Luke records as Jesus prayed His appearance was altered, His robe became glistening.

Both Matthew and Mark use the Word Transfigured.

Which is where we get our Word Metamorphosis, a complete change of appearance as when a chrysalis becomes a butterfly.

The caterpillar, the same essential life, becomes a chrysalis and then into a beautiful butterfly.

Luke says Jesus' face was altered. *Heteros* in the Greek, which suggests a generic distinction something other than Jesus' normal human face.

Matthew simply says His face shown like the sun.

And His clothes became white and glistening.

“White here is *Leukos* – the grand apocalyptic color, the color that is represented of what is beyond our world.” Hughes p. 357

It is the same Word used in **Rev. 20:11** Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

Jesus wore the heavenly white, the purest white, and Luke also describes Jesus as glistening.

Jesus' garments were like flashes of lightening.

Jesus was on earth as a shining star, as for a brief moment all that concealed His True Essence was lifted, as the veil of His humanity was raised.

The same Glory that He had known prior to His advent to earth was always in the depths of His being.

It peaked through just this once in His earthly life.

We see in this picture a glimpse into His beginningless past, in His prehuman state, and at the same time, it is a look forward to His future Glory after the Cross.

Jesus prayed right before the cross **John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.**

This Glory is now shining through, and these disciples would have this spectacular scene to hold onto in their later ministry.

But believe it or not, this mountaintop experience will not sustain them.

When the crucifixion comes, the darkness of that day will eclipse the light of all that this moment entails.

It will not be until years later, as they look back that they will understand fully what is really taking place on this mountaintop.

John would write **John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Now, if this was not an exciting enough scene, two **Superterrestrials (Hughes)** as one commentator calls them, will meet Jesus on that mountaintop, and their presence will speak volumes to this incredible scene.

30 And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke

of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

All three synoptic gospels agree that Moses the Great Lawgiver and Elijah the Great Representative of the Prophets met with Jesus on the mountaintop.

It is interesting that it is these two men, many wonder why it was these two.

There could be many reasons, both of these men met with God once before on a mountaintop on Mt. Sinai, also called Mt. Horeb.

Moses as we discussed earlier had been shown the Glory, and Elijah was shown it as well.

Both of them had very unique departures from this earth.

Moses, died on Mount Nebo, and God personally buried his body fifteen hundred years prior to this meeting with Jesus.

He buried him in a valley of Moab, in a Grave only known to Him.

To keep it hidden from Satan the deceiver.

Elijah never died, he was taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot, he was caught up into glory, and here about 900 years later is found with Jesus.

Now this is interesting, because both of these departures represent two groups of people.

At the Rapture of the Church, there will be those first that Paul explains in **1 Thess. 4:14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

Moses represents those who died in faith, prior to the Rapture, they will be raised to meet Jesus in the sky.

Elijah represents those who Paul says **1 Thess. 4:15-17** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Those who are alive and remain will join those who death came for before the Rapture.

Interestingly too, we will meet them in the clouds, where in a moment we will see the Lawgiver and Prophet joined with Jesus in the Glory Cloud.

So a very clear picture of what is to come.

These two men also make a powerful summary of the Old Testament, Moses the founder of Israel's religion, and Elijah a restorer of the nation's religion.

And of course, they with Jesus are a culmination of all of God's Word.

It was Jesus who said... **Matt 5:17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.**

The writer of Hebrews quotes our Lord when He said, **Heb. 10:7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come — In the volume of the book it is written of Me — To do Your will, O God.'**"

All of the Law and all of the Prophets are summed up and completed in Jesus.

Now what is it that these two Greats and the Greatest talked about up on that mountain.

Well they were sent to Jesus with His final instructions, they spoke of Jesus' decease or departure in Jerusalem.

Literally His exodus.

These men were talking about the coming death, burial, resurrection, and ascension to the right hand of God, this is the ultimate exodus that would be humanities final solution for salvation.

They were talking about the fulfillment of all that they represented.

Now, this is an amazing conversation, one that would give Jesus that final push to finish His mission here on earth.

Now, the three disciples missed much of this scene because of their drowsiness and their misconceptions of who Jesus is.

And we read next, in verse 32...

32 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. 33 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.

Now, if there was ever a time for Peter to be silent this is surely it.

But Peter has a reputation to uphold, and as he slowly creeps his heavy eyes open to this spectacular scene, he reasons within himself to move to action.

Of course, his heart was in a good place, we see he was thinking of others only here, only wanting to build 3 tabernacles, or booths for each of the two Holy men, and one for Son of God.

He assumes that he and John, and James can just stay out in the elements.

Peter of course wants to prolong this moment, it is so out of this world, that the thrill of it all seems good to Peter.

He really wants to hang onto this mountaintop experience.

Now, of course Peter still is not seeing or understanding things completely.

There are three very serious issues with his statement.

The first being, that trying to maintain, or relive a glorious moment in our faith, is not a faith based reality.

Too many, even today try to create and conjure up excitement and thrilling experiences in their faith.

In fact, there are churches today that make claim to the sensational, that even dare to claim, the Glory Cloud visits them, and they stir audiences into a frenzy.

Faith based on theatrics and thrills is a shallow faith.

The thing with creating an atmosphere of emotional hype, is every week you are finding that you need an even greater thrill, a higher plain of emotion, you see the Glory Cloud created last week, is just not enough this week, we need more.

And the emotional driven church goer is never satisfied, and usually their faith burns out in great disappointment.

Don't get me wrong there are mountaintop experiences in our Christian journey, but as we will see next week, there is another very real reality in this

world, an enemy that is ready to meet us after each experience.

We cannot hold onto these emotional times, they are only a by-product not the prime product of a genuine faith.

The second issue with Peter's statement is he is putting Jesus on the same level, equal to that of Moses and Elijah.

Wanting to build them an equal dwelling place.

As we will see in a moment, God the Father is not pleased with that at all.

And the last major flaw with Peter's statement is had Jesus allowed Peter the privileged of keeping Jesus and these two prophets of old on the mountaintop, it would have impeded the plan of salvation.

You see a cross was waiting for Jesus, and it will be after the cross, that Jesus' Glory will have no end.

Next, we see Jesus does not speak, or even acknowledge Peter's aloof response.

But there will be an unforgettable answer given.

34 While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. 35 And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" 36 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.

It had been at least 600 years since the Shekinah Glory left Israel.

But as Peter was speaking, the Glory Cloud was before them and overshadowed them.

Consider that every time the Glory Cloud came in the Old Testament, terror seized the onlookers.

Not even Moses was allowed to fully gaze upon the Glory of God.

Barriers had to be set up to keep people safely from the dreadful consequences of getting too close.

Yet, we see with Jesus, that Peter, James and John were able to gaze upon the Shekinah Glory, as the Divine Incandescent brilliantly consumed the mountaintop.

Truly, this speaks to the Mediator, between God and man, being Jesus Himself.

And God's response comes forth to the emotionalism that was coming about upon that mountaintop in the disciples.

In the midst of the Glory, a voice spoke, and declared of Jesus, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"

We saw the same voice inaugurate Jesus' ministry after His Baptism.

And here the command from God is to listen to His Son.

Jesus being a far greater authority than Moses or Elijah, or any Old Testament witness.

The Old Testament was only a piece of the puzzle, whereas Jesus was the Final Master Piece.

Listen to Him.

The Book of Hebrews opens up with **Heb. 1:1-3**

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

You see it is the Word of God that is most vital for the disciples.

Their experiences will vary from the mountaintop of Pentecost to the valley lows and the horrors of persecution.

They were to hold onto something more stable than experience, The Word.

God cementing here the great milestone in the disciple's journey of faith.

This is where Jesus' Messiahship was revealed with a dazzling scene.

And God the Father validating this truth.

Peter just confessed Jesus as the Christ, and then Jesus was transfigured, metamorphosed to give a physical witness, than God the Father left no question to the matter when He spoke His endorsement of Jesus' Words.

The Chosen One, that the Law leads man too, and the Prophets foretold of, stepped down to earth.

The Savior had come.

And after all the spectacular, as God the Father stopped speaking, Jesus was found alone.

You see Jesus is the Glory of God.

Jesus fulfilled everything signified in the pillar of fire, Jesus was the Glory Cloud, and all of it culminates at Him.

When we read here that Jesus was found alone, it means the focus of everything is Jesus.

He is the center of History and Eternity

Col 1:15-18 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all

things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Jesus is everything, He is the pillar of light guiding man to eternity, the Glory of God that testifies to His majesty.

Consider all this when you hear the Words of Jesus found in...

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Jesus is the Light of Life, if you do not have Him this morning, you are in Darkness.

He is the Savior of the World, and He can be your Savior this morning.

He is our hope, and if you are without Him, you are lost.

Do you have the Light of Life this morning?

If not I plead with you to come to Him this morning, during this last song, come forward and pray with one of the men that will be up here this morning, and surrender to Jesus.

And begin to Hear Him and Follow His Word, and you will find instantly, He will begin to lead you in this world.

You will begin to understand as the Psalmist stated in...

Ps 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet

And a light to my path.

Jesus' Word, the Bible will be your guide and your Light as you Hear Him.

Now, next week we will see the unfortunate reality of the mountaintop experiences, they never last, emotionalism cannot be our ground we stand on.

There is a devil waiting for the disciples and Jesus at the bottom of the mountaintop.

That is why the basis for consistent Christian living can only come from the Word of God.

Experiences come and go, but God's Word remains forever.

Even our memory of past experiences fade quickly, and life has a way of erasing and fading those experiences.

Understand we must "Hear Him!"

It is only through the washing of the Word will our own personal transfiguration take place in our life.

Rom 12:2 tells us And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Our minds and souls will be renewed and cleansed of this world's influence as we come to His Word daily.

And maybe this morning, you are chasing experience, you go from here to there looking for your emotions to be aroused and met.

But you are always stirring, never content, you are unstable maybe double minded, because you just cannot find the right place that keeps you satisfied and entertained.

Be challenged this morning to Hear Him, to rest in His Word, to be content in hearing His Word, this is all that matters, and His Word is the only true and lasting foundation.

Soon, and very soon we are going to see the King of kings in all of His Glory.

Jesus promises He will come back in all of His splendor. Remember what He said last time we were together in...

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.

I hope you are ready for that day, I hope you are clinging to The Word...

Now I will end by saying this, there are glimpses of this Glory today, I will tell you where you see it today.

It is in the changed life, those who receive His Word by faith, and in that moment as their spirit is reborn, you

see the spark in their eye, as the Light of Jesus illuminates from within.

Understand, you who have made this choice, you shine with His countenance, you may not see it, but others do, they see a veiled Glorious Light peeking through.

In fact, one day in Glory, the light within us all will be let lose for all eternity.

All creation awaits this moment.

Rom. 8:19-25 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

Christ's Glory is seen in you this morning, who believe on Him, and one day, it will be fully revealed.

This is our hope Christian, let the Light of Christ's Glory shine in you.

We don't see the Glory Cloud today, but I see Him in each Drug Addict who is freed by Christ's power, in every liar, who now tells the truth, in every thief who now works and gives, as Christ changes each and every one of us daily, His Glory is manifested.

What a wonderful thing to consider this morning.

The afterglow shines in every Redeemed Heart.

Let's pray...

If you don't have Him, make today the day of your salvation.

God bless you all this morning, and please get prayer...