

Today's Message: **Thoughts on the Transfiguration of Jesus**

Luke 9:28-36

Series: Journey thru Golgotha

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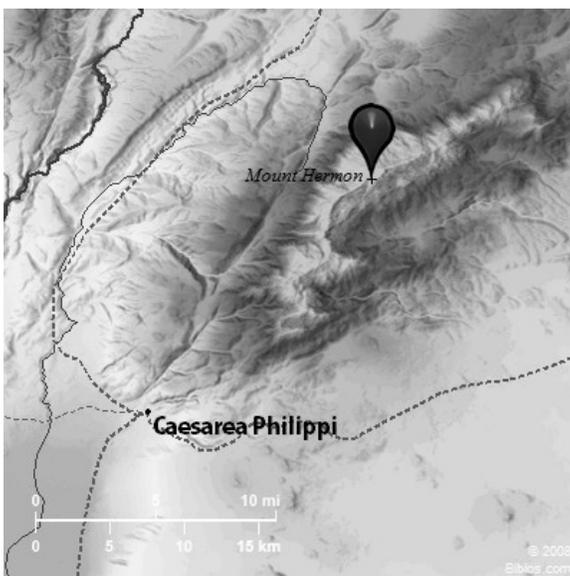
Luke 8:51 ESV "And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden."

Luke 9:28-36(ESV) Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. ³⁰ And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹ who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah" —not knowing what he said. ³⁴ As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" ³⁶ And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

John comments on the Transfiguration too...

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side,^[a] he has made him known. (John 1: 14-18)

The Transfiguration compliments the all-important preceding messianic revelation (vv. 18-27)



Luke introduces the story much like Matthew and Mark but highlights that Jesus is going to pray – and prepares the reader for a divine initiative – Peter confesses Who Jesus is, and now Jesus will show them something divine. Mountains are a common occurrence for Jesus and his friends – He prays, (v. 28; 6:12; 22:39) preaches (Mark 3:13), performs miracles (Matt. 15:29-30), is tempted (4:5) calls his disciples (6:12-13), sends them into mission (Matt. 28:16) and accomplishes his passion (Mark 11:1) from mountains.

After the ascent to Hermon, Luke records that Peter, James and John were heavy with sleep. (They would also fall asleep in the Garden.) This is very natural after an arduous, steep climb up a mountain path. Exhausted, perhaps battling the thin mountain air, weakened by hunger and thirst... They fall asleep only to be awakened by a most glorious sight.

"But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him." Luke 9:32 "What they saw was their Master, while praying,

*transformed. The 'form of God' shone through the 'form of a servant': the 'appearance of His Face became other', 'it did shine as the sun'... the whole figure seemed bathed in light, the very garments whiter far than the snow on which the moon shone... 'flittering', 'white as the light'."*¹

(Luke 9:28-29) Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white.

Eidos – form – appearance – used 5 times in the NT – twice in Luke

and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased. (Luke 3:22)

³⁰ Then you shall erect the tabernacle according to the plan for it that you were shown on the mountain. (Exodus 26:30)

Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ² a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man. ³ For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. ⁴ Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. ⁵ They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.” ⁶ But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. (Hebrews 8:1-6)

Luke is connecting the Transfiguration with both the baptism and the tabernacle (James Edwards, Luke Commentary – Pillar – page 280)

1. Moses and Elijah come to the party

- a. Jesus’ close friends represent the prophetic tradition of Messiah (Edwards, 282)

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. (Deuteronomy 18:15-18)

For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts. ⁴ “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵ “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.” (Malachi 4:4-6)

Both Moses and Elijah were more than just a representation of the Law and Prophets – In Deut. 18 Moses is considered the prototype of the eschatological Prophet and in Hebrews is the High Priest that serves God. We are considered sons and daughters of God – not just servants like Moses and Israel. The Elijah-like Prophet to come in the Day of the Lord is Christ – Malachi recognized that all of the OT prophets are best fit into the portrait of Elijah and Moses (Deut.18).

To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” (Acts 10:43)

- b. Jesus has close friends that mean very much to Him

Moses – Face to face friend

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, ² all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, ³ the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far

as Zoar. ⁴ And the LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, 'I will give it to your offspring.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there."⁵ So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD, ⁶ and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. ⁷ Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated. ⁸ And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended. (Deut. 34: 1-8)

And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door. ¹¹ Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. (Exodus 33:10-11)

Elijah – days are numbered

And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. (1 Kings 19:16)

OT people go down at death not up!

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. (2 Kings 2:1)

You journeyed to the king with oil and multiplied your perfumes; you sent your envoys far off, and sent down even to Sheol. (Isaiah 57:9)

As the cloud fades and vanishes, so he who goes down to Sheol does not come up; (Job 7:9)

Elijah calls fire down from heaven in chapter 1 – now he is taken up in heaven by fire (ESV notes)

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." ¹⁰ And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." ¹¹ And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. ¹³ And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. (2 Kings 2: 9-13)

c. Jesus close friends have an intimate talk.

And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹ who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. (Luke 9:30-31)

"Exodus" – used only a few times in the NT – from the root "ex" – to go out – The Way out – exodos – cease – depart – go on a journey – Luke alludes here to the exodus that Jesus is about to bring to fulfillment in Jerusalem redirects attention from the Galilean ministry to the passion in Jerusalem. The exodus from Egypt, the foundational episode of redemption and formation of Israel in to a people and a nation, becomes a pre-figurement of Jesus' passion, through which he redeems people from the power of sin and forms them into the church. ^(Edwards, 282)

By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones. (Hebrews 11:22)

2. Peter makes a profession at the party; Peter is interrupted by God the Father

What an affirmation of Peter's confession at Caesarea Phillipi at the base of Mt. Hermon when Jesus asked His disciples... "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" ... Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:16 Peter confessed then received assurance.

"And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said." Luke 9:33

Peter saw this event in connection with the Feast of Tabernacles, also called Feast of Booths or Succoth. Succoth is celebrated each year in the Autumn, reminding Jewish people of the Exodus, living in booths or tents (temporary dwellings) until the younger generation would be allowed to enter the Promised Land. It also looked forward to Israel's full blessings from God when He gathers His people into the land in the last days. The Feast of Tabernacles points to the Messiah's reign on earth, the Millennial Kingdom.

Mark tells us that Peter did not know what to say, because they were terrified. "For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid" Mark 9:6 Peter had the right idea, but the wrong time. (<http://www.israeltodayministries.org/transfiguration-messiah>)

Skene – shelter – tabernacle – dwelling place

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁶ Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. ³⁷ But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸ For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys. (Exodus 40: 34-35)

Differing opinions on Peter's comment – BUT.... God interrupts Peter... WHY?

As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. (Luke 9:44)

Our fathers had the tent of witness in the wilderness, just as he who spoke to Moses directed him to make it, according to the pattern that he had seen. ⁴⁵ Our fathers in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our fathers. So it was until the days of David, ⁴⁶ who found favor in the sight of God and asked to find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob ⁴⁷ But it was Solomon who built a house for him. ⁴⁸ Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says, ⁴⁹ "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest?" ⁵⁰ Did not my hand make all these things?' (Acts 7:44-50)

Origin notes that this was God's provision of the tents – Before Peter's very eyes God's dwelling with humanity is present – for Jesus is the new tabernacle of God.

"Overshadowed" – to cast a shadow upon – to enclose – "revealing YET concealing"

Consider the prophetic reality of the situation – God dwelling among man with no animal sacrifices for ever and ever because of Christ's work – God and His Shekinah Glory encompassing them all – and they enter into his presence!

"and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. (Luke 9:44)"

"And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly." Exodus 19:17,18

3. God Speaks about the incredible Truth of His Son.

And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!"³⁶ And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen. (Luke 9:35-36)

Luke notes that God spoke – "this is my beloved Son" ... at the baptism of Jesus – confirming his divine sonship – but in Luke 9 – Luke notes God spoke "*this is my Son..*" emphasis on revealing sonship to the disciples – Then Beloved is used in Baptism and Chosen used here- Emphasis in on the divine ROLE of the son – used

Chosen instead of Beloved – "focus on the role Jesus would fulfill"

4. Peter speaks TRUTH to the ages to come...

*And I will make every effort so that after my **departure** you may be able at any time to recall these things. ¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:15-21)*

Peter uses the graphic word "exodus" – to leave – to take down his tent and move to another location...

1. The Gospel of Christ is no myth – The Apostles were eyewitnesses to it.
2. The Transfiguration is a prelude to the culmination of his second glory revealed. (false teachers were saying the second coming is a myth)
3. All prophecy and interpretation comes from the Holy Spirit
4. Pay close attention to the Word of God
5. If Peter's testimony is rejected – observe the Truth in God's Word
6. The Holy Spirit (Who we have in our hearts) illuminates to us the Truth of God's Word
7. God is a TRUTH to be known first and experienced second

Conclusion:

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time^[a] the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look. (1 Peter 1:10-12)

John was there... Rejoice, beloved, rejoice... In the hope of eternal glory that is ours for those in Christ. Do you see Christ only? Do you see Him?

And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!"³⁶ And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.

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[ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022](#)

1. YOUTH SUNDAY—6-8PM at Harris' (16369 Drayton Way, Fortville). See Pastor Jerry for more info.

2. HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY—9TH-12TH GRADES--Thursday nights 6-8pm at Cynthia Brown's home (14079 Clifton Ct, Fishers IN 46040). See Jerry Ackerman for more info or text him at 317-919-7171.

3. LADIES BIBLE STUDY—WEDNESDAYS—9:30am at Kathy Stump's house (12928 Whitehaven Lane, Fishers; 131st & Cumberland). Studying the book of Hebrews. Hebrews study guide \$10. See Laurie Abell (317-432-6851) or Kathy Stump (317-292-7632) for more details.

4. 2022 ONWARD TO JERUSALEM BIBLE STUDY TOUR—OCTOBER 18-29, 2022. Cost of the tour will be approximately \$3,800 per person (double occupancy). A deposit of \$500 will hold your spot. For more information, please write Pastor Gary at gary@garystump.org. Vaccine Mandates have been lifted for travelers to Israel.

5. "BIBLE ANSWER MAN"—Each week we have a segment in the service where we answer your Bible questions. If you have a particular Bible question, write it on the back of your Prayer Card and we will try to answer your questions.

6. ONWARD PASSOVER SEDER—Good Friday, April 15th @ 6:30pm at the Delaware Township Community Center. Invite your family and friends to this wonderful celebration of Messiah in the Passover. Dinner included. Cost is FREE. Limited space. Email your confirmed reservations to Lynda Pendleton at Lynda@anythingcantalk.com