



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

A Story of Glory!

Luke 9:27-42

Message #32 of 50 – S811

Sermon given on September 30, 2018



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

A Story of Glory!

Luke 9:27-42

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 9**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- In today's text Jesus will give us a glimpse into the future
- Today, we get a glimpse of glory
- Rightly understood, this can help us to desire to be true Christ-followers
- And to be a part of what God is trying to accomplish in the world around us
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **A Story of Glory!**
- Our first verse for today is a continuation from last week
- **Luke 9:27**
- Jesus has been turning the disciple's ideas of being one of His followers upside down
- Let's back up a couple of verses
- **Luke 9:22**
- They were hoping for a conquering king, not a suffering servant
- They also thought following Jesus meant greatness for them
- **Luke 9:23**
- They believe He is the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the Living God
- It is time to see Him a little more clearly
- First point – **Glory Revealed**
- **Luke 9:28-29**
- In Mark's gospel, he uses the word transfigured – which is where we get the term 'Transfiguration' to describe this event
- 'transfigured' = metamorphosed – like a caterpillar to butterfly
- This is the only time in His earthly ministry that Jesus' glory was revealed **R. Kent Hughes**

For a brief moment the veil of His humanity was lifted, and His true essence was allowed to shine through.

- This is how we will see Jesus in heaven
- It is interesting to me that this happens as Jesus is praying
- As He is praying – glory bursts forth
- In a moment we will see that Peter, James, and John were not praying
- I wonder how often we miss out on the glory of God because we are negligent in prayer
- Then something really fascinating happens

- **Luke 9:30-31**

- There are many things we could talk about these two characters
- Moses had died about 1,400 years earlier – it was through Moses that God rescued the people of Israel from Egypt, and it was through Moses that God gave the Ten Commandments, and the Law
- When he died, God did something unusual – He hid Moses' tomb
- Elijah – was a Prophet – God would give him messages – spiritual texts and emails – to give to the people of Israel
- Elijah didn't die – about 900 years earlier **2 Kings 2:11**

Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

- Turn in your Bible to **1 Thessalonians 4**
- While Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets – or the whole of the Old Testament – they represent something else also
- If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, God has promised heaven to you
- In 1 Thessalonians 4 we are told that there are two ways to get there
- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-14**
- Paul is writing to comfort the believers who have lost loved ones
- They are concerned that if they died before Christ came back that they might have missed their chance to go to heaven with Him
- 'sleep in Jesus' = believers who have died
- **1 Thessalonians 4:15-16**
- Moses represents the dead in Christ who will be raised to life when Jesus comes back
- **1 Thessalonians 4:17-18**
- Elijah represents those who are still alive when Jesus comes back

- Turn to **1 Corinthians 15** - This is a glimpse of our future
- One of the things people wonder about is what we will look like in heaven – here is a clue – glorious
- Paul talks about that
- **1 Corinthians 15:50-58**
- Turn back to **Luke 9**
- It is also interesting to note that the same word for glory in verse 31 is used for Jesus in verse 32
- It also says in verse 31 that that Moses and Elijah spoke to Jesus about what was coming soon
- It doesn't tell us why they are doing this, just that they did
- But there is something very personal and intimate about this scene
- We don't know a lot about what heaven is going to be like, but it looks like hanging out with Jesus will be way more personal than it will be religious
- Moses and Elijah are talking to Jesus about His 'decease'
- We don't use that word like that very often, though we do used 'deceased'
- The Greek word = exodus – means 'departed'
- Moses and Elijah came to talk to Jesus about what He was about to do for the whole world
- I wonder, when was the last time you spoke to Jesus about what He did for you? Thank you, Jesus for saving me!
- As this glorious scene is developing, the disciples are having trouble keeping their eyes open
- Second point – **Glory Revered**
- **Luke 9:32**
- Praying is hard – and because it is, some hardly pray – but being a Christian is harder without prayer
- Prayerlessness can lead us to do or say things we shouldn't
- Prayerlessness always leads to powerlessness
- **Luke 9:33**
- It is unclear exactly what Peter is proposing here, but the sense is that he doesn't want this moment to end

- God, in His grace will allow us to experience His glory, sometimes in a radical, powerful way
- It is not strange to want to continue to experience God's glory
- Unfortunately, we often want to do it in a way that messes up what God is trying to do
- Peter, James, and John have just witnessed the glory of Christ and the glory of Moses and Elijah
- Peter wants to build three tabernacles/tents
- He realized that Jesus is even greater than he understood Him to be
- By building three tabernacles – saying Jesus is equal with Moses and Elijah – two of the most revered men in Israel
- It is bad doctrine and God corrects Peter immediately
- **Luke 9:34-35**
- This is the Shekinah glory of God – the invisible God making His presence known in a physical way
- It had been since the time of Ezekiel, 600 years earlier since anyone had witnessed the Shekinah glory of God
- God says something very similar to what He said at the baptism of Jesus **Luke 3:22**

And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

- When it comes to reverence, Jesus Christ stands alone
- If we want to experience God and His glory, it will be through Jesus Christ – reverence Him, worship Him, obey Him, and Him alone
- Just as quickly as the Shekinah glory of God appeared, it was gone
- **Luke 9:36**
- Everything is back to the way it was, Jesus looks just the way He had before this event
- But, the disciples would never be the same – both Peter and John would later write about it **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.

- Third point – **Glory Returned**

- Moses and Elijah return to where they came from – Jesus’ appearance has returned to its former state – now it is time to return from their time on the mountain
 - The mountain of glory is to prepare us for the valley of human need
 - **Luke 9:37-40**
 - No sooner had they returned from this radical mountaintop experience than they are confronted by great human need
 - It is probably not possible for most of us to understand the great anguish in this father’s heart
 - His son has been suffering for a long time, and this father was helpless to do anything about it
 - Until he heard about Jesus – so he brings the boy to the disciples
 - But they are not able to help
 - **Luke 9:41-42**
 - This is directed at both the disciples and the people
 - The disciples had recently returned from a ministry trip where they were doing great miracles, including casting out demons – why couldn’t they deal with this one?
 - Here and in Matthew, Jesus says it is because of a lack of faith
 - And Mark’s gospel says they probably weren’t praying
 - Turn to **2 Corinthians 3**
 - Peter, James, and John witnessed the glory of Christ in a special way
 - After Jesus finished His work by dying on the cross for our sins, they were never the same – this was one of the experiences that changed them
 - God wants to change us too **2 Corinthians 3:18**
- But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**
- God wants to reveal His glory to us and through us
 - That can happen as we pray, grow in faith, and walk in faithful obedience
 - Four quick things out of this verse
 - ‘we all, with unveiled face’ – to see the glory of God and be changed by it there can be nothing between us and God
 - Sin will put a veil over your spiritual eyes to the glory of God

- Repent and confess your sins so you can see His glory
- ‘beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord’ – be looking for the God’s glory – good place is in the Bible – also stepping out in faith to serve God – and prayer – all expose you to God’s glory
- ‘are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory’ – are you willing to be changed – admit to God that you are not like Jesus – need to change – community with other believers
- ‘just as by the Spirit of the Lord’ – admit to God that you can’t do it on your own – need help = Holy Spirit
- It has been almost 2,000 years since the Shekinah glory of God has been seen in the world
- Someday, all of God’s people will be clothed in glory, just like Jesus in this account
- Until then, we are called to be reflectors of God’s glory **Matthew**

5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- The next time this world sees the Shekinah glory of God will be when Jesus comes back
- If they are going to see it before then, they will have to see it through you
- What a remarkable privilege it is to be vessels of His glory to this world that desperately needs to see Jesus
- Let your light shine so they can see Jesus
- **Pray!**
- Thank Jesus for saving us
- God promised heaven – believe!
- Live a glorious life today
- Repent
- Look for God’s glory – help us not to be drowsy
- Be willing to change
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help