

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST // Luke 9:28-36

Morning message from the series, The Gospel of Luke

The context is important for understanding the account of the transfiguration of Jesus. The disciples have just received a heavy message--yes, Jesus is the Christ of God, but he is going to Jerusalem to his death, and everyone who would follow him must deny themselves and bear their own cross. After the transfiguration, they are going to be involved in ministry that is beyond their own ability to perform.

At the transfiguration, God does something outside the normative Christian experience--but it is an experience that God recognizes that we (like the disciples) need when faced with the long road of discipleship and the heavy burden of ministry. This mountaintop experience is a special and unique time of being alone with Jesus.

Characteristics of Mountaintop Time with the Lord:

1. A break, sabbatical from our schedule
2. A geographical location--a retreat, a hotel, a room in your house
3. A time focused in prayer--intentional and strategic
4. An intense, focused Bible reading--a specific passage for a specific circumstance
5. A vision of next steps

Main Idea: You Need to Meet God on the Mountain // What happens on the mountain?

1. We catch a fresh glimpse of Jesus. It's not a physical manifestation or an extra-biblical revelation, but a deeper understanding of who Jesus is, seen with the eyes of the heart. These disciples see Jesus with Moses and Elijah (v.31), and Jesus is superior--the greater prophet, the greater teacher, who will stand between God and his people and bring them out of slavery in a way that Moses could not.

2. We know the joy of Christian living. The joy of our salvation is restored (Psalm 51:12) and we can share in Peter's excitement and say, "*Master, it is good that we are here*" (v.34).

3. We hear clear instructions from heaven. We don't want to miss what he has to say, and whatever he says will point to Jesus-- "*this is my Son... listen to him!*" (v. 35).

4. We prepare for the valley below. If we don't spend time on the mountain, we will not be prepared for the work in the valley--we need to be spiritually prepared and equipped. God will often speak and deal with you in ways that are for your eyes only (v. 36).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Has God ever drawn you into a mountain top meeting with himself? What was the outcome of that meeting?
2. How can these unique times alone with the Lord equip us for discipleship and ministry?
3. How can we prepare for such a meeting with God? At what points in our lives do we most strongly sense the need to have this special time?