

TRANSFORMED LIFE

When Jesus appeared on the mount of transfiguration in Luke 9:28-36, He shone with the divine '*shekinah*' glory of God Himself, as He spoke with Moses and Elijah. They represent the Law and Prophets who foretold the Christ, and He talks with them about all that He is about to accomplish. Jesus had brought Peter and James and John with Him to be His witnesses.

HUMAN RESPONSE - Verse 32 says the three men, "*were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him.*" In their human lethargy they couldn't stay awake to pray, but they awoke to an amazing scene. They are us!

"We take comfort," notes JC Ryle, "that now is the season for carrying our cross, sharing in the Savior's humiliation, because we will share His crown and kingdom glory yet to come. Glory seen only a few minutes by three witnesses shall be seen by all the world, never hidden to eternity."

PETER'S PATTERN - Verse 33 says that as the men were parting from Jesus, Peter said to Him, "*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.*" Peter, open mouth, insert foot. He was overcome with this scene of Jesus Christ in His glory, just as they had hoped for and as Jesus promised.

Of course Peter wanted to preserve and extend it. Let's celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles, and rejoice in God's provisions! If Christ is here in His glory, then we can skip the suffering and the cross! But verse 34 says, "*As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.*" God interrupts their human response to this other-worldly scene, with an immersive audio-visual experience that silences them.

HEAVENLY COMMAND - Verse 35 says a voice came out of the cloud, saying "*This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!*" These are words of both instruction and reproof, notes Ryle. And these words confirm the confession of verse 20, that Jesus is "*the Christ of God!*"

In Mark 9 God said, "*This is My beloved Son*" and in Matthew 17 God said "*this is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.*" All three gospel accounts record the heavenly command, "*Listen to Him!*" Jesus Christ is the One to whom the Old Testament Law and Prophets point.

"From the beginning of the world," Ryle observes, "there has never been but one foundation of hope and peace for sinners, the death of an Almighty Mediator between God and man, now revealed in the person of Christ. Listen to Him!" Be transformed by the transfigured Christ.

FOLLOW THROUGH - Verse 36 says, that "*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 Calvin comments, "We are placed under Christ's tuition alone, and commanded from Him alone to seek the doctrine of salvation, to depend upon and listen to One, to adhere to One, to hearken to One only, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only way and the truth and the life."

When 2Peter 1 notes this episode, in light of Peter's own departure, he assures his readers that the gospel is true, that they were eyewitnesses of the glory-majesty of Christ and of God, and of the heavenly voice. Then he says the prophetic word is more fully confirmed in the Scriptures, produced by the Holy Spirit -- the written-down Word of God that you hold in your hand.

YOUR TRANSFORMATION - Who do YOU hear? How do YOU heed Him? Who do you say that Jesus is? If you say, the Christ of God, who accomplished salvation through His own perfect life and death and resurrection, and who lives and reigns today, does He reign in your life? Do you truly listen to Him? Hear and heed Him? Especially in the midst of all the counter voices?

God says of Jesus, "*Listen to Him!*" Are you reading Scriptures daily? Is the Bible your daily spiritual nourishment, so that you can take up your cross and follow Him, daily? Putting off the old man and putting on the new man, and the armor of Christ, to stand against every temptation?

Only by putting God's truth constantly into your heart and mind and will, can you withstand the constant lies of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Only by daily listening to Him in constant prayer to get your mind in sync with His, will your life line up with God's written-down Word of grace and truth. Then you can help grow His kingdom as His emissaries. Listen, learn, and live God's Word, by the power of the Holy Spirit within you. Be transformed by the transfigured Christ! □