

Luke 9:28-36

Introduction: The inner-circle of Jesus' disciples see Him as He really is.

Jesus gives a “sneak preview” (Bock) as His glory is displayed—9:28-29

- 1) When? ²⁸ *Now it happened, about eight days after these sayings,*
- 2) What? *He went up on the mountain to pray.*
 - a) We don't know for certain what mountain, but probably Mt. Hermon
- 3) With whom? *and having taken Peter and John and James/Jacob,*
- 4) When? ²⁹ *And while He was praying,*
- 5) His prayer is answered by His glory being displayed
 - a) The appearance of His face changes to reveal His true character—*the appearance of His face became different,*
 - i) Like the sun (cf. Matthew 17:2)
 - b) The appearance of His clothes changes to reveal His true status—and *His clothing became gleaming white.* (i.e. emitting light)
 - i) Like the snow (cf. Mark 9:3)
 - c) As someone said, try to picture this without squinting (Stiles)
 - d) This was not from an external source, but rather the outshining of His essential glorious nature. (Pentecost)

Jesus, Moses, and Elijah discuss His suffering—9:30-31

- 1) Who visited Jesus on the hill? ³⁰ *And behold, two men were talking with Him, and they were Moses and Elijah,*
 - a) These 2 were the only 2 who met with God on Mt. Sinai. They both had unusual departures and had witnessed God's glory.
 - b) They may also be functioning as two witnesses.
- 2) What did they talk about with Jesus? ³¹ *who, having appeared in (Jesus' reflected) glory, were speaking of His departure [ἐξοδος] (cf. 9:31) that He was about to accomplish in Jerusalem.*

Peter's response to the event—9:32-33

- 1) Most likely during the night—³² *Now Peter and his companions had been weighed down with sleep;*
- 2) Seeing the glory of the Messiah—and *when they were fully awake, they saw ...*
 - a) *His glory*
 - b) *and the two men standing with Him.*
- 3) Peter's feeble attempt to prolong their stay—³³ *Then it happened, as they were departing from Him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master,*
 - a) *it is good for us to be here;*
 - b) *and let us make three booths (for the Feast of Tabernacles, pointing to a future work of God): one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he was saying.*
 - i) Good intentions, but it doesn't go far enough. Jesus is not merely the same as the other 2.

- ii) Perhaps Peter is thinking of Zechariah 14:16. Peter wants the kingdom, and he wants the kingdom **now**!
- iii) He still wants the crown without the cross.

God the Father interrupts Peter and endorses God the Son—9:34-35

- 1) Their response to being enveloped in a cloud—9:34
 - a) ³⁴ *Now while he was saying this, a cloud (the Shekinah glory) came and overshadowed them;*
 - b) *and they (the 3 disciples) were afraid as they entered the cloud.*
- 2) The Father clearly identifies Jesus—9:35 ³⁵ *Then a voice came out of the cloud, (to speak to the 3 disciples outside the cloud)*
 - a) *saying,*
 - i) His title—*“This is My Son,* (cf. Psalm 2:7)
 - ii) His description—*the Beloved One.* (some MSS read “the Chosen One”)
 - iii) His authority—*Listen to Him!”*
 - (1) If He said He is going to suffer, be rejected, be killed, and be raised again (cf. 9:22), then you need to listen to what He says
 - b) This is the second time the Father has identified Jesus as such (cf. 3:22). Both revelations are related to preparation for specific tasks.

The silence of the three apostles—9:36

- 1) The Son becomes the center of their focus—9:36a ³⁶ *And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.*
- 2) The silence of the apostles—*And they (the 3 disciples) kept silent, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen.*
 - a) Because of Jesus’ command to wait until after the resurrection (cf. Matthew 17:9; Mark 9:9)

Future responses

- 1) By Peter—2nd Peter 1:16-18
- 2) By John—John 1:14

Take-home truth: do you long to see the glory of Christ? John 17:24