

**Encounters With Jesus**

***“Unseen Reality”***

**Luke 9:28-36**

- Delivered at DHBC on August 18th, 2013 (Soli Deo Gloria)

* wedding suit story

Transition:

* there is more to the world than we can see, taste, touch.
* Here the veil is removed and the disciples see who Jesus really is

Summary

* in chapter 9
  + Jesus sends out the 12 on His mission proclaiming the Kingdom of God (that God’s Kingdom has arrived)
  + Jesus and his disciples debrief by themselves but a huge crowd (5000 men) follow. Jesus teaches them about the kingdom of God (9:11) and demonstrating it (by healing and then by feeding them from 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish)
  + Luke 9:18ff 🡪 Jesus asks who His disciples think He is. Peter confesses that Jesus is “The Christ of God”
* the transfiguration
  + takes 3 up to pray on a mountain
  + the 3 fall asleep
  + While Jesus prays Jesus’ appearance changes to be like lightning
  + Joined by Moses and Elijah

1. Who? Jesus revealed as…

* easy to skip over this amazing event
* God takes the sheet covers full reality and pulls it away
  + Similar to Stephen at death (Acts 6) or end of time (Rev 6:14)

1. Messiah
   1. Messiah 🡪 anointed of God, meant to save and rescue Israel
2. Fulfillment of Law and Prophets
   1. Moses and Elijah
   2. Not just fulfillment of a few prophecies but the ultimate trajectory of all that came before
   3. Note the topic of discussion between Moses, Elijah and Jesus (Jesus’ death)
3. Glory of God
   1. Speaking of Moses, this scenario closely resembles Mount Sinai
      1. On the Mountain
      2. glory manifested as light
      3. Word of God revealed
4. Why? Jesus revealed so we listen to Him

* continue reading the story
* Elijah and Moses getting ready to go, Peter wants to build shelters for them
* Cloud comes over the three disciples
  + Not an ordinary cloud, a shekinah cloud like in Exodus
  + Voice of the Father (just like at Jesus’ baptism)
  + “This is my Son who I have chosen, **listen to Him**”
* Know who I AM, listen to what I say!
* 2 dominate messages that Jesus says in this chapter and major themes in the rest of his ministry: I will suffer and Take up your cross

1. Jesus will suffer
   1. 9:21, 44 (note the incongruity of event and statement)
   2. Jesus says, “I see the whole picture. It may look like I am a fraud, but look now, see this, I’m not a fraud. We are going to walk some deep valleys and you will be tempted to make wrong conclusions, DON’T. Just listen”
   3. So we shouldn’t use our minds? YES – well, no, sort of …
      1. We never use our minds alone, we look at an event, look to experts and then try to draw conclusions.
         1. Waterslide story
         2. “what does this mean?” (dating, marriage, pregnancy, young children …)
         3. We all differ to authority 🡪 the **FOOL** is the one who thinks that THEY are always the authority
         4. We just need to be careful which authority we select 🡪 I will go with shiny Jesus and the voice from Heaven
   4. Jesus’ says “remember this event, know that I am who I say I am and don’t let my suffering deceive you. Listen to me, I need to suffer and die to bring you all to God.
      1. Remember what Jesus and Elijah and Moses talked about? Jesus “accomplishing” His “exit” (literally, exodus)
      2. Jesus death isn’t a mistake, it isn’t a sign He was wrong, it was something planned.
2. Following Jesus costs
   1. 9:23-26, 58, 60, 62
   2. Can you imagine if Peter, James and John bring their day timers up to Jesus after and say “Oh, well I can’t be your disciple on this day or this day because I have this and this and this ..”
   3. If we truly know who Jesus is we drop everything else
      1. We drop Sin
         1. All sin is idolatry
            1. Sexual sin – MY pleasure is more important
            2. Sloth – MY comfort is more important
            3. Anger – MY retribution is more important
            4. Pride – MY reputation is more important
            5. Greed/Envy – MY desire is more important
         2. If you are fully aware of who Jesus is, are you seriously going to go after things that completely deny His existence?
      2. We drop self living
   4. Repentance (metanoia)
      1. Repentance means having a new mind
      2. Not separation of mind and life, but what you TRULY BELIEVE you act on
         1. If I believe my wife is a gift, I treat her that way
      3. If we truly see who Jesus is, we know we can trust Him, hope in Him, hold onto Him and worship Him alone. We know that we can loose our life for His sake.
      4. When we know who Jesus is, we will never tire of fighting sin. We will never tire of making much of Him and less of ourselves (John the Baptist – John 3:30 “He must increase I must decrease”)

**Possible mistake – don’t stay on the mountain**

* Review a detail we skipped over 🡪 Peter wanting to build “shelters” (v. 33)
* “shelters” = tabernacles 🡪 Peter was thinking he would make the place a center of worship
* what is Jesus’ response? Nothing. He goes down the mountain to continue His mission
* Jesus revealed as a missionary 🡪 sent, in the world not of the world
* His disciples are missionaries also (Matthew 28:19-20)
* Don’t get me wrong, I’m not saying we shouldn’t spend time in worship and staying in the presence of God (Mary and Martha), I’m saying that if you turn every experience into a temple, your going to wake-up and Jesus is going to be GONE
* Jesus didn’t stop being all the things He was on the mountain when he descended – but it wasn’t as important to make that obvious anymore. In the same way, we don’t leave God behind when we step into our world, but our vision of hidden reality powers us to continue on mission

**Taking the veil of today**

* obviously this transfiguration of Jesus was a one time event – but the curtain being pulled back and making the unseen reality visible is not a one time event.
* As disciples (or followers) of Christ, we need to continually remind ourselves of that unseen reality. We do that in two ways.

1. We look at the Word of God

* two things are called the Word of God (Jesus and Scripture)
* 2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for **teaching, rebuking, correcting and training** in righteousness”
  + It points us to unseen reality and critiques us.

1. We come to the Body of Christ

* again, Scripture refers to two things as the body of Christ (His physical body [and with this the bread that symbolizes it] and the Church)
* This is why meeting together with other Christians is important
* “*Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you* ***teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and song****s from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.*” (Colossians 3:16, NIV)
* “*And let us consider how we may* ***spur one another on toward love and good deed****s,* ***not giving up meeting together****, as some are in the habit of doing, but* ***encouraging one another****—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*” (Hebrews 10:24–25, NIV)
* “*But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.*” (Hebrews 3:13, NIV)
* this is why we do things like Sunday morning services, home groups, GROW pods 🡪 meeting together with other disciples to remind, encourage and show the unseen reality of who Jesus is and what he is calling us to.
* It isn’t a place we stay indefinitely, but we gather together and then scatter on the mission on which we are sent – to love others and show them the unseen reality.

**So what does it all mean?**

Everything that we do flows directly from who Jesus was revealed to be on that mountain. From who Jesus really is in the unseen reality.

We need to continuously remind ourselves of that reality and then act on it. Not just know it but believe it and have that belief affect how we behave.

We are going to close by singing All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name (96)