

LESSON 1

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS

Scripture Text: Luke 9:28-36

In our study of the life of Christ and His work here on earth, we are looking at Him as existing in past eternity and in future eternity as well as the brief time He spent on earth. We have seen Him creating the universe with His Father and the Holy Spirit, appearing on earth before His birth here, promised to be sent to earth, and becoming human and living among men. Now we come to the third and last year of His ministry. His unchanging separation from, and denunciation of, evil has brought the enmity and rejection of the masses to whom He had shown the power of God. He also won the devoted loyalty of a few. Compare Mark 9:2-9 and Matthew 17:1-13.

MEMORY VERSE: *And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.*

Luke 9:35



Christ Transfigured

Luke 9:28-29 Jesus took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. He wanted them alone for the sacred scene to follow. Nothing like this had the eyes of man ever seen. It was too sacred for most to see; these three great men could not handle it. They went to sleep while Jesus prayed. **And as He prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening**—A brighter scene than earth affords, strange indeed. Jesus was changed. The glory of God shone through His human body. The veil put on Him for His earthly stay was removed and showed briefly His inner glory, His true nature, and gave a glimpse of what God is really like. God was honoring Him. The manifestation of God was so strong that it overflowed into the material of His clothing.

Two Men Brought Back

Luke 9:30-31 Equally as miraculous as the change in Jesus was the bringing back of Moses and Elias (Elijah) from the other world. **There talked with Him two men . . . Moses and Elias.** Moses was the great leader through whom God gave the Law to Israel. He represents the dispensation of the Law. He died in 1451 B.C. Elias, one of the greatest of the Prophets, represents God's government by the Prophets (1 Kings, Chapters 17, 18, 19, and 21). He was translated some 925 years before; yet here they were living and talking. They were examples of the everlasting life Jesus talked about. Once begun, no life ever ends. They were talking with Jesus **of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.**

The Law with its forms and sacrifices pointed forward to Christ (Galatians 3:24). All of its types were fulfilled in Jesus. The Prophets also pointed forward to Christ. His coming and salvation fulfilled their predictions. They talked of Christ's death because it was the finish of the work in whose beginning they had so vital a part. God brought these representatives of the Law and the Prophets back to hear from Christ Himself the plan for the glorious finish of the program so long awaited by them. This was the climax of the purpose for which He came to earth.

God Drives Away Confusion

Luke 9:32-33 But Peter and they . . . were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw . . . It is marvelous what God can show us if He can only get us awake. **Peter said . . .** quick-speaking Peter, usually too quick—**good for us to be here.** What great company they were in; Peter wanted to stay there. **Let us make three tabernacles, one for thee . . . Moses . . . Elias: not knowing what he said.** A great idea, but a man's idea. This is where confusion begins. Every time men's ideas get them to believe that great men are equal to Jesus, they want to build tabernacles to them, and more confusion is added to the minds of the people.

Luke 9:34 While he thus spake—God stops this kind of business very quickly. This was connected with Heaven. His appearance was such as no earthly power could produce. Citizens of Heaven came for the occasion and a voice from Heaven took part in it. Matthew 17:6 tells us **they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.** No wonder they were afraid! Peter's words had caused a cloud to be placed over the whole wonderful scene. Where once they could see plainly now a cloud had blinded their sight.

Luke 9:35 Voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him. The Law and the Prophets are not our guides now. Only Jesus Christ is to be obeyed. He is the Head of all things. The Voice of God named Jesus His Son as the One to be heard and obeyed. **Hear him.** In these two words is the solution for the division and confusion in the religious world, for all false doctrines, and for all the evils and troubles of the world today.

See Jesus Only

Luke 9:36 Jesus was found alone. When the Voice of God was past, they saw no one else but Jesus. Jesus told them **to tell the vision to no man** (Matthew 17:8-9). The vision was over. Jesus commanded secrecy concerning this until after He was **risen again from the dead.** Jesus did not want them to tell about visions. He wanted them to tell the Gospel. They did not understand and Jesus did not want them to speak that which they did not understand. After His death they would be given understanding of all things by the Holy Spirit. His rising would be the greatest proof of His Deity.

JUST A THOUGHT

"The only test of fellowship is the existence of fellowship." – D.S. Warner