

**Intro:**

Chuck is speaking next week, new series coming in September.

The basic idea of the series: we need to encounter/see Jesus. And when we do, we have choices to make, choices to go down one path or another, choices that can change our lives forever. This is true regardless of if you're new or old to the faith journey, if you've never really heard about Jesus until today or you've learned about him since you were a child. The reality is that we all need to see him afresh, and be changed.

Our passage today: perhaps one of the most definitive, blatant revelations of Jesus as of yet, full of implications for our lives. Let's take a look, and note what we see, and what that means for us.

Read Text: Luke 9:21-36

Now, let me just note that a discussion was given on the first half of the passage back in April, so please checkout the mp3 online for a more in depth analysis of it. It's important to understand it, though, in order to understand the second half of the passage. So let's run through it quickly so we can focus in on the second half today. Jesus gets to a point in the early part of his three year ministry where he asks his closest followers- "who do people think I am?" It's a very important question, perhaps the important question we could ever ask, even today. After a few options are mentioned of holy men that people knew back then, Jesus directs the question to them, and they give the answer "the Christ, or Messiah (which is what Christ means), of God." (v.20)

They are correct- Jesus is the one that, according to the Scriptures they were reading which is found in the first half of our Bibles today, God was sending to rid the world of evil and sin, and bring about a new rule in the world, a kingdom to use the language of Jesus, where peace, justice, goodness, and love would reign. This is what was expected of the Messiah.

So the disciples are correct in calling Jesus the Messiah, but they actually are deficient in understanding how the Messiah will accomplish that task. They think Jesus will rid the world of evil and setup a kingdom of love and justice through a powerful overthrow of the Roman Empire (the Empire that ruled over them, and the main perpetrators of evil in their minds). Jesus, on the other hand, has something much more radical and comprehensive in mind- he is actually going to give himself to suffering and death, and through that overcome evil not just manifest in the Roman Empire, but evil in all of humanity.

There is a lot to unpack with Jesus' way of doing things, and Jesus will have to unpack this throughout the rest of his time with the disciples (this is actually the first time he has talked about this way of death). But we know, based on the other Gospel accounts in the Bible, that the disciples are utterly confused by the Jesus way of death. They are confused because it does not fit their paradigm of how evil is overcome- evil is overcome by power, they think, not by weakness. And it does not fit their picture of all-powerful, great and awesome Messiah. Is Jesus truly the all-powerful, awesome Messiah if he is going to die a weak and humiliating death?

Jesus wants to make sure they understand that He is still the all-powerful Messiah, so he notes that one day they will indeed see that aspect of him in full view- both when he comes back to judge the world (v.26) and, in fact, in just a few days (v.27-36). The second half of our story is essentially about Jesus revealing himself in this way.

So, then, as we enter into this second half, two questions we want to ask: what exactly are we supposed to see about Jesus? What does that mean for us today?

Four quick points about what we are supposed to understand about Jesus:

**Jesus is uniquely glorious**

This is what this whole transforming of his face and clothing is about- note how in v.32 it is described as seeing his glory. Note also the repeat of the word "glory" in v.26.

A couple of notes:

Glory- the greatness and awesomeness of something, here expressed visibly.

Jesus here is uniquely glorious, different from how human beings are glorious. Note: while v.31 says the prophets appear in glory, v. 32 note that Jesus' has his glory, implying that is different. Later in the Bible, the disciples will realize that this is glory is indeed God's own glory, pointing to the fact that Jesus is somehow God.

Again, the reason why Jesus is showing his followers this is to let the disciples know that the road of suffering and death in no way diminish His greatness as Messiah.

This is so important because the way of Jesus is the same today- it can at times involve suffering, humiliation, shame. We need to remember that not our Jesus is glorious, and will one day come and show us all his glory, and as such this glorious Jesus is worth going through even suffering and humiliation for.

### **Jesus is the hoped for, ultimate spokesperson for God**

The question arises, of course, why do these two prophets of old appear with Jesus here? The answer is found in understanding the importance of these prophets for the Jewish people at that time. Moses was seen the prophet that helped gather and create the people of God, giving them God's commands; Elijah, was seen as the prophet of the hoped for end days, where God would come and rid the world of evil. Them being around Jesus show us that Jesus is the fulfillment of what both of them were ultimately pointing to, Jesus is the one who will ultimately create a people for God, showing them what God ultimately wants from them. And Jesus will bring in the hope of the final days of God's history.

Some texts to note: Deut. 18:15- Acts 3:22 in context.

So yes, Jesus is saying, listen to me, even as I am on a path of suffering and humiliation- I am the ultimate spokesperson for God.

### **Jesus is the hoped for, ultimate deliverer for humanity's bondage to evil**

v.31- the word is literally "exodus."

The exodus, of course, was the definitely event of God's people up until Jesus- when God brought his people out of slavery and formed them into a nation. Jesus was about to do more by dying on a cross- bring people out of the slavery and evil of sin, and form a whole new humanity with them.

### **Jesus is God's unique Son and Chosen One (v. 35.)**

Jesus, even though He is on a path of suffering and death and humiliation, is the awesome, glorious Messiah that we ought to follow.

#### **Application:**

#### **Listen to him!**

This is only natural- if we truly understand and see Jesus as he really is, we would quickly listen.

Today, as some of you are seeing Jesus, you need to listen. You've been turning away, perhaps. Or perhaps it just hasn't ever "clicked," but today it finally is: ah, this is Jesus.

(See also 2 Peter 1:16-18 for an example of how this experience was applied by Peter)

But there's a more important question, I think: how might we see His glory often?

### **Put yourself in a place of prayer and Scripture**

*Prayer (v.18, 28)*

Prayer is needed because seeing who Jesus is is not just about information, it's about revelation. In other words, it's not about just about getting certain knowledge about Jesus in your intellect. It's about that knowledge somehow being comprehended by your soul so that you cherish and value Jesus, and are willing to give your life completely to him. And so let me challenge us to pray. And we're not just talking about finding routine and official moments of prayer, but praying with a genuine desire to see Him.

- On our own when we are alone.

- On our own as we are together.

As worship starts...

As community group starts...

Together with others...

*The written Word. (John 20:30-31)*

What is written here is so that we can "believe." This word believe does not refer to mere intellectual knowledge, it refers to what we just talked about: seeing with your soul, cherishing the Jesus that is revealed, and giving your life to him.

And so be here, get in the extra study notes, get in a Gig or CG.