

# Luke

## The Gospel for Everyone

Study 18 | Luke 9:28-36

### News and Needs

#### Upcoming Events:

January 17th: Evening Service  
Potluck

January 30th: *Introduction to Park  
Slope Presbyterian Church*--9 am  
until Noon at the church office.

### *“A New Humanity”*

**1. What is the significance of the Transfiguration? How did Jesus’ appearance change, and what does this change in appearance reveal about who Jesus is? Can you think of other Biblical encounters that might inform what happens here?**

The significance of the Transfiguration is the glimpse we get of the glory Jesus would receive after he completed his work of redemption. The appearance of Jesus’ face was altered and his clothing became dazzling white. The great glory of God in the person of Jesus Christ was clearly revealed at the Transfiguration, and we see a fuller representation of Jesus’ identity. Paul refers to Jesus as the “firstborn” or “firstfruits” of the new creation. Consider 1 Corinthians 15:42-49:

**42** So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. **43** It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. **44** It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. **45** Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. **46** But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. **47** The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. **48** As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. **49** Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

There is at least one other biblical account that informs what happens in the Transfiguration. What God says about Jesus at his baptism directly corresponds with what he says about Jesus at the Transfiguration. “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased” (Luke 3:22).

**2. What is significant about Moses and Elijah appearing? About their conversation with Jesus concerning his departure? Of all the things God could say at this time, why do you think he chose to say what he does in verse 35? Why did Jesus bring Peter, James, and John with him to witness this event?**

The significance of Moses and Elijah appearing at the Transfiguration is the

visible representation of the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah) with Jesus. Later, after his death and resurrection, Jesus appeared (in glory) to his disciples, and told them, “These are the words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled (Luke 24:44). The presence of Moses and Elijah with Jesus confirmed that the Law and the Prophets are all about Christ.

Moses and Elijah speak with Jesus about his “departure” which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. N.T. Wright explains,

“The word for departure is exodus . . . in his death, Jesus will enact an event just like the great Exodus from Egypt, only more so. In the first Exodus, Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and home to the promised land. In the new Exodus, Jesus will lead all God’s people out of the slavery of sin and death, and home to their promised inheritance – the new creation in which the whole world will be redeemed.”

God shows the importance of Jesus’ identity in relationship to him. Jesus is on his way to his death, and God’s proclamation reveals that his death will accomplish the salvation of the world. Essentially, God confirms that Jesus is the Messiah for whom Israel has longed. God also tells us to listen to Jesus, which means that we can trust and believe what Jesus says about himself and his work.

Jesus brought Peter, James, and John because they would be representatives of the formation of the early church in the New Testament. The presence of Peter, James, and John at the Transfiguration helps us see that the writings of the New Testament are part of the authoritative Word of God that is centered on Jesus. Consider 2 Peter 1:16-21:

**16** For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. **17** For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” **18** we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. **19** And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, **20** knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of

Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. **21** For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

**3. What response to Jesus does Luke want us to have as readers of this passage? How do you struggle in seeing Jesus as ordinary and missing out on his glory? What is hard about being silent and listening to Jesus in our culture? What are some specific ways that we who have 'beheld his glory' can share Jesus' true identity with others?**

Luke wants his readers to have certainty about Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God whose death will accomplish the redemption of the world. The Gospels provide an account of how Jesus presents himself to the world. Jesus gives us no option to see him as ordinary, especially in the event of the Transfiguration.

God tells us to listen to him because Jesus is fully God and has authority over our lives. Does Jesus' teaching bear weight in your life? Does it matter to you when you do not follow his teaching? There is so much in our culture that distracts our attention from Jesus and there are so many voices proclaiming spiritual direction. Yet, when we come together for worship on Sunday and when we meet together during the week, we are listening to Jesus! We can bring our friends to church and to community group in order that they may listen to Jesus and behold his glory.