

Luke 9:27-36; I John 3:1-3; The Proof of Christ's Glory I. The Glory of His Appearance II. The Glory of His Fulfillment III. The Glory of His Endorsement

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ, two weeks ago we consider what people had to say about Jesus. Jesus asked His disciples- who do others- and who do you say that I am? Well- as important as it is for His people to understand His identity- today we find an infinitely more important designation! Who does the Father say He is? What does the Father have to say about this one who has claimed to come down from heaven? Receiving a good endorsement is necessary in our world. It is often said- it does not matter what you know as much as who you know! A good resume has positive references- a list of people that can speak to your character. Well- there is no better endorsement than the Father's! Last week we considered the cross and the call to suffering. But the certainty of suffering is not meant to discourage us- rather to direct our eyes to the glory of Jesus Christ! This glory was present for a moment in our passage- but is now fully enjoyed by the Son! The glory that will be revealed is to help us take our eyes off the lesser things. In other words- the cross is only half of the story! The glory and the crown are just as certain for Christ as they are for those who follow after Christ! So today we see that the glory of Christ is revealed so that we might listen to His words!

I. The Glory of His Appearance

We start by considering the glory of Christ as revealed in his change in appearance. In v. 29 the appearance of His face was altered. There was a change to His face- the appearance of His body took on a new form- His outward countenance transitioned from the body of the first man to become the body of the new Adam. His external look was changed to be that of another- He was still Himself but yet He was different. He transitioned- now glorified He looked like another! Like the Benediction in Numbers 6- His face turned and shined upon them. The flesh that was lowly and humble became high and exalted- shining forth with power. But not only His face- even His cloths took on a new look. His earthly cloths could not hold back the glory of the one who wore them! His clothing became dazzling while- as

bright as the sun. Literally flashing- dazzling while like the white heat of lightning. Like the festal robe of one going to a wedding- in all purity and brilliance. Truly heavenly apparel- flashing forth light- there was something changed about Him that caused even His cloths to become illuminated! Children, have you ever taken a bright flashlight and put it inside a white sock. The sock is illuminated. Well- the cloths of Jesus were illuminated as His brightness shines through them! This is the brightness of Ez. 1- the very resplendent shining of God's presence! What was taking place was that the curtain was lifted for just a moment- on the top of the mountain these three men were given a glimpse of what the Son once had- and what He would soon have again- the glory and honor of the Sun of Righteousness. They received a passing sight- a fleeting vision of what our Lord and Savior now fully has! As we read in Rev. 1- when Jesus is raised, ascended and glorified His hair is as white as snow- His eyes are like flames of fire- His feet like burnished bronze and His face shines like the sun in full strength! This is the glorified Christ- which these disciples catch a glimpse of. And those in him also look forward to this change. As we read in I John 3- when we see Him we will be like Him! His glorified body our glorified body! Now we carry the body of the first Adam- then we will have the body of the second Adam- spiritual bodies that are raised with power, glory and honor! That is what we have to look forward to! As Jesus would pray in John 17- Father, glorify me with the glory I had with you before the world existed. The Father has answered this request- the crown followed the cross for Jesus- and will also be shared by us one day!

II. The Glory of His Fulfillment

But the glory of Jesus Christ was not only evident in this transfiguration of His body and cloths- it is also testified to by the presence of two individuals. Now we know the story- but don't let its significance pass you by! Here we have Moses and Elijah- perhaps the two most clearly linked to the coming of Jesus Christ- men whose arrival would set the stage for the coming Christ! Elijah's arrival was to prepare the way for the Christ- I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord as Malachi 4 would say! And Dt. 18:15 says that God will raise up for you a prophet like Moses- one to

whom you shall listen. So in the OT- there was a well established link between these two men and the arrival of Christ. But also consider that Moses- as the author of the OT Law; and Elijah as one of the greatest prophets- together represent the entire OT. It is as if the Law and the Prophets- which represents the entire OT- come to meet Jesus here on the Mountain! Even as Jesus said in Luke 24- everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled. Jesus came to fulfill and perfect the OT- and these two men were privileged to get a first-hand account of the fulfillment of the words they wrote thousands of years before. This is also proof that the OT saints are saved in the same way we are saved. We all live by faith- the OT saints like Moses and Elijah lived by faith in the Christ who was to come- we live by faith in the Christ who has come- but salvation is still found in His name alone! This meeting also proves to us that Jesus is not Moses or Elijah- He is not some OT prophet raised as some people thought back in v. 19- but that He is in fact the Christ. These men appear with Jesus in glory. Note that it is not their glory- but the glory of Jesus in which they appear! Now what did these two men discuss with Jesus? Well- v. 31 says that they spoke of Jesus' departure. Literally- they spoke of Jesus' exodus! Can you imagine- Moses who led the Israelites during the exodus- who wrote the OT book called Exodus- now speaks with Jesus who is going to perform the perfect and final exodus! Christ's death, resurrection and ascension is going to be the final, spiritual exodus where He will leave this sinful world and return to the promised Land above! His departure is going to mark the end of the work that Moses was looking forward to! In other words- everything was going according to God's plan- the deliverance and salvation of a people will soon be carried out by His suffering on the cross- and the gates of Zion will be opened wide when the King of Glory comes home when He ascends into glory! For Jesus- Humiliation will be followed by exaltation- the cross replaced with a crown! His exodus marking His final state- the end of His earthly ministry- fulfilling and accomplishing all that He set out to do in Jerusalem. Jesus will leave nothing wanting- at the end of His 40 days after resurrection- He will complete His exodus and cross the river Jordan and be received into

the holy city of rest which is above! He would accomplish all He set out to perform- salvation being fully purchased- so that He could say- it is finished. Sitting down at the Father's right hand- pouring out His Spirit on the church and judging the city of Jerusalem for their rebellion. Everything foretold concerning His work would be achieved! All things would point to His Kingdom being established.

III. The Glory of His Endorsement

But there is one more proof of His glory- not only in His changed appearance and the company that appear with Him- the final proof comes in the words of the Father in v. 35. This would prove beyond a doubt- This is the promised one! It may be helpful to see what the disciples thought about Him- but even this truth back in v. 20 was revealed to Peter by the Father. Now the Father would make His own voice heard. Jesus- the word of God- would have a faithful word spoken by His Father! This is truly the greatest endorsement possible- the perfect recommendation- the Father says- this is my Son- v. 35. This is my beloved Son- my dearly loved child. This is important because the Father has assured His Son of His love- here at the beginning of Jesus' darkest hour. Although the suffering on the cross will silence the Father- now the Father makes it known. You are my Son- I love you! Every child longs to be assured of their father's love. But not only is Jesus dearly loved- He is also the chosen one. The one called by the Father for this task- the one sent and selected to be the Father's representative. His chosen nature corresponds to His anointing- being baptized by the Spirit and set apart to be the perfect prophet, priest and king! This must be an important moment in Jesus' life- because this is the one of the only two times we read that the Father spoke audibly to the Son. Here at His transfiguration- and earlier at His baptism- Jesus is identified by the Father. This is the One- Here is my Son! Now this identification is for a reason- as v. 35 concludes- listen to Him! Now you know Him- now listen to Him! The Father demands our attention- and then directs us to heed the voice of His Appointed Shepherd. When the Father speaks- mountains tremble! Many are the words of men- but few and powerful are the Father's words! The Father makes it clear- salvation is found in no one else! No one but my Son has the Words

of life- the Son speaks for me- on my authority- listen to Him! His words are true- His witness reliable! The application of this whole encounter hinges on these words. The glory of the Son is revealed for the expressed purpose- so that we might listen to Him! To hear and heed His voice! As Jesus said in John 10- my sheep hear my voice. So we are called to listen to Jesus! If He is who He is revealed to be- whom the Father says He is- we must listen! His word must be our lamp and light- our bread and water! Jesus has received all power and glory- He has received the Kingdom of His Father- He is now reigning over all having received the name above all names! Jesus is glorious! So listen to Him! Heed His words! When Jesus would send out His Spirit, the work of the Spirit would be to bring to our mind all that Jesus said and did. So as you hear the words of the Son- listen- take them to heart! His glory is revealed to prove to us- He deserves our attention! For He is the chosen one- the beloved of the Father. As our passage draws to a close- Jesus is enveloped in a cloud- just like the cloud that would embrace Him when He would return to glory- just like the cloud that will carry Him when He returns that final day. Jesus leads the way- going before us to prepare a place for us in glory- where He leads we will follow.

To conclude, the glory of Jesus Christ is here revealed so that we might listen to Him! Of all the endorsements in this world- nothing comes close to this glorious endorsement of Jesus Christ! His glory is marvelous- we must listen to Him! If we have followed Him on earth- we will also follow Him into His glory! The death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus radically changes how we view this world. Our interpretation of these current struggles are seen in the light of His glory and grace! As it was for Jesus- so it will be for us- the cross is followed by the crown- the sorrows of humiliation followed by the joys of exaltation! Since these are true- let us all heed the voice of our Jesus!