

Luke Chapter 9 Continued

Luke 9:18 “And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am?”

This means that Jesus had removed from the multitude, when He finished praying.

He asked them this important question.

This is the most important question in all of Christendom.

What are you going to do with Jesus?

Who is He?

Your answer can seal your doom in hell or save you.

Luke 9:19 "They answering said, John the Baptist; but some [say], Elijah; and others [say], that one of the old prophets is risen again."

“John the Baptist ... Elijah ... One of the old prophets”:

Such rumors were apparently quite common.

This does not suggest that John was Elijah returned.

In fact, John himself denied that he was Elijah (John 1:21), yet he came in the spirit and power of Elijah (Luke 1:17).

If they had believed, John would have been the fulfillment of the Elijah prophecies. (see Revelation 11:5-6).

As important as John the Baptist, Elijah and the prophets were; none of them could save you.

The people were confused.

Looking at Jesus, they saw a man.

Luke 9:20 "He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Peter answering said, The Christ of God."

“The Christ of God”:

I.e., the Messiah promised in the Old Testament (Dan. 9:25-26).

Matthew 16:16 gives a more explicit answer from Peter; "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus replies to Peter that flesh and blood had not revealed this to Peter, but the Father.

In saying this, Peter has said: You are God's Son who has taken on flesh to live among us.

Luke 9:21 "And he straitly charged them, and commanded [them] to tell no man that thing;"

Jesus charged them that they should not make him known.

Here Christ seems concerned about the potential zealotry of those who would try to press Him into the conquering-hero mold that the rabbinical experts had made out of messianic prophecy.

The only person then or now who truly knows in his heart who Jesus is, he is the one who the Father has revealed it to.

Luke 9:22 "Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day."

"The Son of man must suffer":

This pronouncement signified a great turning point in Jesus' ministry.

Jesus has just revealed (above), to them that He is truly the Messiah that they looked for.

But in the very same breath He then tells them that He will suffer and die at the hands of His Jewish church.

The elders, chief priests, and scribes made up the ruling body of the temple of that day.

His own people will reject Him and even crucify Him.

His promise to these disciples is that He will rise again on the third day.

Luke 9:23 "And he said to [them] all, If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

"Cross":

Self-denial was a common thread in Christ's teaching to his disciples (14:26-27; Matt. 10:38; 16:24; Mark 8:34; John 12:24-26).

The kind of self-denial He sought was not a reclusive asceticism, but a willingness to obey His commandments, serve one another, and suffer, perhaps even die, for His sake.

This is a message that no one wanted to hear.

It is still an unpopular message today.

If we do not take up our cross every day, then we will not receive our crown and sit with Him in heavenly places.

In our day, the message has wandered so far from this.

Many preachers are bringing a message that if you receive Jesus, that there will be nothing but good times.

Our leader suffered.

If we are true followers of His, we can expect no better.

The walk with Jesus is a walk of denial to worldly things and also, brings suffering in this world.

Luke 9:24 "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it."

"But whosoever will lose his life for my sake":

Aside from the command "follow Me," this saying is repeated more times in the gospels than any other saying of Christ. (17:33; Matthew 10:39; 16:25; Mark 8:35; John 12:25).

We must be willing to give our very life, if necessary.

The important life is the eternal life with Him.

This few years we live here on the earth are but a blink in all of history.

We must live and die staying true to God, so that our eternal life will be spent with Him.

Luke 9:25 "For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?"

Desires for things of this world in abundance usually cause us to sin in acquiring them.

We may become very rich in worldly goods and yet lose our soul.

It is a terrible trade off to trade perhaps 70 or 80 years of pleasures now for the thousands of years of all of eternity.

Luke 9:26 "For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and [in his] Father's, and of the holy angels."

“Whosoever shall be ashamed of me”:

I.e., unbelievers (Matt. 10:33; Rom. 9:33; 10:11; 2 Tim. 2:12).

Jesus is the Judge of all the world.

If we do not accept Him as our Savior and Lord here now, He will not recognize us as belonging to Him then.

Our stand for Him must be taken here.

If we truly believe in our heart and confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus and hold up His Word, then He will welcome us into His kingdom.

If we do not uphold His Word and declare Him to be the Christ (Messiah), He will say get away from me, I never knew you (Matt. 7:23).

Jesus will declare the true believers (Christians), in front of His Father and the angels.

We will be accepted and crowned by our Savior, Jesus.

Luke 9:27 "But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God."

“Some ... standing”:

In all three of the synoptic gospels, this promise is made immediately prior to the Transfiguration (Mark 9:1-8; Luke 9:27-36).

Furthermore, the word for “kingdom” can be translated “royal splendor.”

Therefore, it seems most natural to interpret this promise as a reference to the Transfiguration, which “some” of the disciples, Peter, James and John would witness only 8 days later.

Peter, James, and John do get a glimpse of the kingdom of God at the transfiguration, that we do know for sure.

We also know, that Stephen looked into heaven and saw the throne of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father just before he was stoned to death.

Luke 9:28 “And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.”

“About an eight days”:

A common expression signifying about a week (John 20:26).

“After these sayings”:

This expression ties the promise of seeing the kingdom (verse 27), to the events that follow.

“Peter and John and James”:

These three alone were permitted to witness the raising of Jairus’ daughter (see 8:51), and also the Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1), and Christ’s agony in the garden (Mark 14:33).

“A mountain”:

The traditional site, Mt. Tabor, is unlikely.

Jesus and the disciples had been in “the district of Caesarea Philippi” (Matt. 6:13), and Tabor is nowhere near there.

Besides, Tabor had evidently been the site of pagan worship (Hos. 5:1), and in Jesus’ day, an army garrison had their fortress at the top.

The actual location of the Transfiguration is nowhere identified, but Mt. Hermon (7,000 feet higher than Tabor, and closer to Caesarea Philippi) is believed by many to be the place.

Always, when Jesus went aside, He took these three with Him.

They seemed to be the closest to Him.

Jesus went to the mountain to pray so that He could pray; in private.

We might take a lesson from Jesus in this.

The best prayers are the ones we pray in secret to God.

Luke 9:29 "And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment [was] white [and] glistering."

“As he prayed”:

As at His baptism, while He was praying, the Father’s voice came from heaven.

“Glistering”:

Literally “emitting light.”

This word is used only here in the New Testament.

It suggests a brilliant flashing light, similar to lightning.

This Light was showing who Jesus really is; the Light of the world.

This could be likened unto the Shekinah.

This Light that came from within Jesus was so bright that His clothes glistened.

Luke 9:30 "And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elijah:"

“Moses and Elijah”:

Representing the law and the prophets respectively, both of which had foretold Christ’s death, and that is what Luke says the three of them were discussing (Luke 9:31).

It was really interesting that Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus at this transfiguration.

Certainly, that was who they were.

Moses received the law from God for the people, and Elijah was a very prominent prophet.

These two Old Testament men represented the law and the prophets.

Luke 9:31 "Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem."

“His decease”:

Peter uses the same term to speak of his own death (2 Peter 1:15), only Luke mentions the subject matter of their conversation and the fact the Peter, James and John had fallen asleep (verse 32; 22:45).

These two came to discuss with Jesus the things which were about to happen in Jerusalem.

Jesus' flesh did not look forward to the rejection and cruel force of the death on the cross.

I really believe that this also, was to help Peter, James, and John when remembering back that God still has everything under control.

These 3 should draw an extra strength from this transfiguration on the mountain top.

Luke 9:32 "But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him."

They had been tired and went to sleep.

On awakening, they saw this magnificent sight on the mountain: Jesus in all His glory and the two Old Testament representatives; Moses for the law and Elijah for the prophets.

Luke 9:33 "And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah: not knowing what he said."

“Three tabernacles”:

This is undoubtedly a reference to the booths that were used to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles, when the Israelites dwelt in booths for 7 days (Lev. 23:34-42).

Peter was expressing a wish to stay in that place.

Peter truly did not know what he said.

Moses and Elijah were men, Jesus was God the Son.

You do not build tabernacles to men.

Luke 9:34 "While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud."

“A cloud”:

(Matthew 17:5), says “a bright cloud,” i.e., enveloping the glory of God, similar to the pillar of cloud that led the Israelites in the Old Testament (Exod. 14:19-20).

The brightness of this cloud and the sleepiness of the disciples (verse 32), suggest that this event may have occurred at night.

Luke 9:35 "And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him."

This is while Peter was speaking that this cloud of the Almighty overshadowed them.

When this cloud came so close and they knew this was the presence of God, it even frightened the disciples.

Even more frightening is the voice that comes from this cloud and says, "This is my beloved Son; hear him".

All of this should have strengthened them when their test came.

Peter, the one we would expect to be the greatest believer, will, in fact at that point, deny that he even knew Jesus.

This should be proof enough to these three forever of who Jesus is.

Luke 9:36 "And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And they kept [it] close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen."

They had seen the glory of God the Father overshadow Jesus, and God Himself, tell them that Jesus is His beloved Son and to listen to whatever He says.

Perhaps because they assumed no one would believe and because Jesus told them not to tell it.

At any rate, they did not mention this until after Jesus' resurrection.

Jesus had chosen these three disciples to see things the others had not seen.

Luke Chapter 9 Continued Questions

1. When Jesus was alone with the disciples and praying, what did He ask them?
2. What is the most important question in all Christendom?
3. If you cannot answer this question correctly, where will you wind up?
4. When they answered Jesus' question, who did they say the people said He was?
5. The people were confused. Looking at Jesus they saw a _____.
6. What did Peter answer when Jesus asked whom say ye that I am?
7. Jesus told Peter that _____ and _____ had not revealed this to him, but the _____.
8. In verse 22, Jesus told them some terrible things would happen to Him. What were they?
9. He also told them He would rise from the grave on what day?
10. Who made up the ruling body of the temple in Jerusalem?
11. If any man will come after Jesus, they must do what daily?
12. In what way has the modern church wandered from this message?
13. The walk with Jesus is a walk of _____ and brings _____.

14. We must live and die being true to whom?
15. If we are ashamed of Jesus and His Words here, what will happen in heaven?
16. What would cause Jesus to welcome us into His kingdom?
17. Who were some who did not taste death before they saw the kingdom?
18. Which three disciples went to the mountain with Jesus to pray?
19. What are the best prayers?
20. As Jesus prayed, what 2 miraculous things happened?
21. What could this Light be likened unto?
22. Who were the 2 men who talked to Jesus?
23. What do they symbolize?
24. What were they speaking of?
25. Who wanted to make three tabernacles?
26. Why was this wrong?
27. Whose voice spoke from the cloud?
28. What did He say?