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Beverly E.C.C., Chicago, IL

“YOUR LIGHT HAS COME”

Luke 9:28-36

○ {Is 60:1-3}

**“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD
rises upon you.**

**See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.”**

○ If we are alive in Christ we *are* “**children of the light**” (1 Th 5:5). Not only so, we *are* “**light in the Lord**” (Eph 5:8), and we “**will shine**” “**like stars in the sky**” **among**” this “**warped and crooked generation**” (Php 2:15). Thus says Messiah in John 8:12: “**I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.**”

? *Where is the glory of God in our lives?*

? *How is Christ revealing his glory to us, in us, and through us?*

Some here are in a season of manifest glory. We clearly see God’s beauty and splendor revealed in the world, in our circumstances, even in our hearts and minds. We can easily say, “*This is where God’s glory is radiating in my life.*” “*This is how he is revealing his glory.*”

Others are in a season of veiled glory. We believe in “**the glory of the LORD**”; but what we see is “**thick darkness**” in the world and in our circumstances, and we fear that it will creep into our hearts. We cannot help but ask, “*Is God revealing his glory to, in, and through me?*”

Whatever season you are in, I invite you to work with me on this text today. It might bless you.

□ Let’s turn to Luke 9:28-36.

■ Verse 29: “**As he [Jesus] was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.**”

● In his account, Matthew {17:2} says “**His face shone like the sun.**” Mark {9:3} adds that “**his clothes became dazzling white.**”

☑ On Independence Day my family and I watched the fireworks at Richards High School in Oak Lawn. I tend to be blasé about pyrotechnics, yet this display was spectacular. The finale was especially breathtaking. It moved me, and it stirred my longing for transcendent beauty.

Of course, firework light is merely a fleeting chemical reaction. It’s there, and then it’s gone. It is as superficial as it is lovely. It signifies nothing substantial.

✈ In contrast, the light of the Transfiguration is an outward manifestation of the inward glory of the Son of God. Christ’s temporary, external transformation reveals his eternal internal majesty,

excellence, and holiness. It signifies absolute substance.

📖 Third Day has a song titled, “Show Me Your Glory.” It is a reflection on Moses’ experience at Sinai, but the lyrics fit the Transfiguration as well:

I caught a glimpse of Your splendor
In the corner of my eye
The most beautiful thing I’ve ever seen
And it was like a flash of lightning
Reflected off the sky
And I know I’ll never be the same

Show me Your glory
Send down Your presence
I want to see Your face
Show me Your glory
Majesty shines about You
I can’t go on without You, Lord

⚙️ Hear the Good News: God still reveals his glory in tangible ways: the wonders of Creation, music that grips the soul, the birth of a child, and so on. May he give us 20/20 vision to perceive his glory!

⚙️ Even better, {Mt 24:30} “**all the nations... will**” yet “**see the Son of Man coming on the clouds ...with power and great glory.**” Christ’s enemies “**will mourn,**” but God’s children will rejoice {1 Jn 3:2} “**for we will see him as he really is.**”

Come quickly, Lord Jesus!!

■ Verses 30-31a: “**Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus.**” These were not ghosts. They were men, full of life, sent from heaven for this special occasion.

Why did the Almighty send Moses and Elijah?

○ {Lk 7:19-22} Moses delivered Israel from physical bondage. Elijah delivered them from spiritual bondage. Jesus came to deliver Jews and Gentiles alike from physical and spiritual bondage.

○ {Mt 22:37-40} Moses gave Israel the Law. Elijah renewed their obedience to it. Jesus reframed it when he declared: “**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and...soul and...mind,**” and “**Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.**”

○ {Ex 33; 1 Ki 19; 1 Jn 1:18} Moses had a glimpse of a tiny portion of God’s glory. Elijah heard God’s voice. Jesus “**is...God and is near to the Father.**” Other than during his Incarnation, there has never been any distance between him and his Father’s glory.

○ {Mt 5:17} Moses was the Old Testament lawgiver. Elijah was the OT prophet *par excellence*. Jesus came “**to fulfill**” “**the Law [and] the Prophets.**”

○ Hebrews 1:1-3a clarifies why Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus:

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,

but in these last days he has spoken to us by [his] Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being.

☼ Hear the Good News: God makes his glory known in the Law and the Prophets introduced in the O.T. and fulfilled in the New. May he open our eyes wide to see his glory revealed in his Word!

■ Now, verse 31b: **“They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.” “They spoke about his departure”** (literally, his ἐξοδον, his “exodus”): that is, his death, resurrection, and ascension.

■ This is foreshadowed in the first words of our text in verse 28: **“About eight days after he said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray.”**

○ Said what? Luke 9:22: **“The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”** And Luke 9:23: **“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”**

Matthew, Mark, and Luke skip directly from Christ's prediction of his death and invitation to carry the cross, to his Transfiguration. This underscores the link between it and the Passion.

✈ So the Transfiguration accomplishes at least three tasks: 1) it fortifies Jesus to stand firm in his Passion; 2) it equips Peter, James, and John for discipleship in the shadow of the cross (verse 35); and 3) it reveals the glory of the cross.

Crucifixion *per se* is exceptionally inglorious. What could be uglier, more humiliating, more degrading?

Yet endured willingly by Christ for our justification, sanctification, and reconciliation to God, it is an occasion of unparalleled glory! For those who have eyes to see, the cross radiates the Messiah's holiness, obedience, wisdom, love and power!

○ {Php 2:8, 9, 11b} It is precisely because Jesus **“humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even... on a cross!”** that **“God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name...to the glory of God the Father.”**

■ Hence, (verse 33) when Peter exclaims: **“Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah”** (Let's forget about dying and stay here, basking in the glory!), the Father immediately announces (verse 35): **“This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.”** Peter **“did not know what he was saying”**: saying *No* to the cross was equivalent to saying *No* to ultimate glory.

☼ Hear the great Good News: to be a disciple of Jesus is to **“deny [oneself]... take up [one’s] cross ... and follow” him to glory.**

○ Much of our glory is now hidden from sight.

Romans 8:18: **“our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”**

2 Corinthians 4:17: **“Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”** And so forth.

○ Some of our glory is a present reality. 2

Corinthians 2:18: **“we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory.”** 2

Corinthians 4:6: **“God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.”** And so on.

May the Lord give us the eyes of eagles to see the glory of the cross!

**“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD
rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over
the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.”**

We who are in Christ *are* **“children of the light.”** We *have* **“the light of life.”** We *are* **“light in the Lord.”**

Let us reflect the light of the Transfigured Christ. Let us go forth and **“shine” “like stars in the sky.”**