

Title: ASTONISHED BY THE MAJESTY OF GOD, LUKE 9:28 – 43
(Chatham, NJ; 02/10/13, AM) [Pc – Topical]

Theme: Man's reaction to God's glory is astonishment, and astonishment leads to faith and sustains dedication.

Purpose: To grasp the significance of the revelations of God's glory and to remind us that faith leads us to experiencing that glory on the last day

Introduction:

1. Witnessing the transfiguration was a remarkable privilege for Peter, James, and John.
2. References to the glory of God surround this event so others saw something of God's glory though in a different way.
3. As seen in 2 Corinthians 3:18, because of Christ we see and reflect the glory of God and are transformed by it.
4. How are we transformed by what happens in Luke 9? What majesty astonishes us?

I. Majesty at Christ's Coming, 9:26

- A. God's glory anticipated
 1. Easy to miss because we focus on his words about discipleship and shame
 2. The vision is a triumphant one: glory of the Son of Man, God, and angels
 3. It will be particularly glorious if we are on God's side at that time
- B. Humanity's reaction to God's glory
 1. Are we going to be ashamed of Jesus and his words?
 2. Society intimidates and bullies you to reject Christ or to accept some watered-down version of discipleship
 3. Will we allow them to bully us into being ashamed of Christ's words?
 4. Or will we stand on principle? The principles taught by God
 5. We can anticipate God's glory with enthusiasm if we are not ashamed of Christ's teachings here and now

II. Majesty on the Mountain

- A. God reveals his "Chosen One" (9:35)
 1. Only Luke uses this designation, but the implication is the same in all accounts
 2. The similarities with Ex. 24:15-18
 3. The connection with the plan of God is unmistakable
 4. As Moses was an eyewitness to God's glory so were these disciples
 5. Peter's witness is as an eyewitness, 2 Peter 1:16 -18
- B. Human reaction
 1. Jesus prayed (28-29), they slept (32)
 2. Stunned by the transformation (32)
 3. An extraordinary encounter
 4. Isaiah (Woe is me), Daniel (8:27 – overcome, sick, appalled by vision)
 5. Kept silent (as Jesus demanded in Mk. 9:9-13)
 6. But they still did not understand "rising from the dead"
 7. Later they put it all together and it fueled a movement that has transformed humanity

III. Crowd Astonished at the Glory of God, 43

- A. Back "on earth"
 1. Confronting the demons (37-40)

2. Battle against evil continues
3. The forces of darkness are too strong for the disciples
4. Our battle is not against flesh and blood, Eph. 6:12
5. Like the disciples we live somewhere between seeing the glory of God and seeing the demons

B. Human response to supernatural powers

1. Disciples lacked the faith needed to overcome the demon (40-41)
2. Jesus had the power (42)
3. The crowd was astonished at Jesus' power (43)
4. Does it make them believe?
5. 1 John 3:8, "The reason the Son of God came was to destroy the works of the devil."

Conclusion:

1. We see Christ without any veil, 2 Corinthians 3:18; as a result we not only see the glory of God clearly, but we also reflect that glory.
2. It has transformed us.
3. Stand with him against the powers of this dark world!
4. Be unafraid of making an open statement of the truth, 2 Corinthians 4:2-6.
5. Be astonished! Have faith!
6. Gaze upon the glory of Christ and let his glory be reflected in you!