

Luke 9:28-45
Light, Resurrection, Predictions

Biblical Background - Review

1. Eight days - frequently used to indicate a week. Peter, James and John were also with Jesus at the healing of Jairus's daughter and in his last visit to Gethsemane. Mount Hermon fits the context for this event being closer and higher at 9,000 feet. The Mount of Transfiguration is about 1,800 feet high. It was also occupied as a fortress, making it unlikely for this event to take place there.
2. Jesus' face changed and his clothes became bright as lightning - see comments below
3. Moses and Elijah - Moses the giver of the law and Elijah representing the prophets. The work of Moses was finished by Joshua and Elijah's work by Elisha. They spoke with Jesus about the exodus he was about to accomplish, by which he would deliver his people from their bondage of sin and bring to complete fulfillment the work of both Moses and Elijah. These two men also appeared in glorious splendor.
4. Departure - Greek for exodus, a euphemism for Jesus' approaching death. It may also link his death with God's salvation of the people from Egypt.
5. Sleepy - it is likely this event happened at night and they were very tired, which is understandable.
6. Peter's suggestion - three shelters to prolong the visit of these three central figures together. Jesus, however, had much work to finish in his very few days on this earth, before his death. He was not interested in being the center of attention. He always pointed to God rather than to himself. "Let's build a cathedral here and worship you always! I WANT THIS MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCE TO GO ON FOREVER!"
7. Chosen one, deeply loved - remember Jesus' baptism and the voice from heaven? God clearly tells the disciples to listen to Jesus and take him with ultimate seriousness. God departs and so do Moses and Elijah. The disciples said nothing about this event to anyone else.
8. Are you dearly beloved by God? How do you know?
9. Healing of the Boy - the boy, this man's only child, was afflicted by "an evil spirit" and a speechless condition. The people believed that evil spirits were responsible for many kinds of afflictions. The father was desperate.
10. Disciples fail to heal the boy - Jesus' response to this is to call them and the people unbelieving and part of the perverse generation - see below. Does this mean that if we can't do miracles of healing, we are unbelieving and perverse?

11. Jesus heals and delivers - the people were then amazed at God's greatness. "If you do miracles I will believe in your words and in you." Conditional belief - give me real proof!
12. Betrayal - prediction of his death and its manner and by whom. The disciples did not understand so it was hidden from them so that they did not grasp it and they were afraid to ask Jesus about it. Why?

Discussion and Pondering

- A. Why does Jesus face and clothing become pure white?
- B. What is the significance of Moses and Elijah meeting with Jesus?
- C. Why is this confusing event misunderstood by Peter, underscored by God and kept secret by the disciples?
- D. When have you experienced God/Jesus in a miraculous way that confused and overwhelmed you?
- E. Have you ever felt like this father whose son was very, very ill? How did you deal with that?
- F. V 41 - why is Jesus so upset with the disciples and the people after they could not heal this boy?
- G. Notice how Jesus responded: (1) confronted the evil spirit and rebuked it (2) healed the boy of this affliction (3) gave him back to his father, well. Confrontation - restoration - reintegrated in community. Is this a pattern you can follow?
- H. Jesus predicts his death - to be betrayed and murdered by the powers that be (wealth, power, position, authority).
- I. What is the main takeaway for you from this passage? How would your life change if you took it to heart?