

## I. Intro

## A. Ended last week with a discussion on death

1. Following Jesus looks like death to self
2. Theme continues for the rest of Luke 9

## B. We pick up in Luke 9:28

1. Pay attention to how Luke tells the story of following Jesus
2. A historical account of what happened
3. Also, a relevant way of understanding our Christian walk

## II. Text

**A. Luke 9:28-36**

1. About (*ῥοσει*) 8 days after the teaching on death (Mt & Mk say 6 days)...
  - a) Jesus prays on a mountain with Peter, James, and John
  - b) Christ is transfigured, Moses and Elijah appear
  - c) 3 are asleep, 3 talk about the second exodus
2. Literal mountain top experience – law, prophets, and king converge
  - a) Significant moment for entire Bible story
  - b) Peter wants to build tabernacles – symbol of memorial and worship [Lev 23:34]
  - c) Peter wants to ascribe equal value/worship to all three
3. *Why is this an issue?*
  - a) *The Bible points to Jesus, not Moses or Elijah or some event*
  - b) *Events, stories, and people are arrows —> pointing to something better*
  - c) *The better has arrived – don't elevate traditions as equal or above Jesus*
4. *This is why, in response to Peter, the Father speaks*
  - a) *This is my son, MY CHOSEN, listen to Him*
  - b) *No person, no experience, no tradition greater than Jesus*
    - (1) *Conflict between feelings and Jesus? – listen to Jesus!*
    - (2) *Conflict between traditions and Jesus? – listen to Jesus!*

**B. Luke 9:37-43a**

1. Story occurs in all three synoptic gospels (Mt, Mk, Lk)

- a) Always follows the Transfiguration
  - b) Always includes father with demonized child and inadequate disciples
  - c) Always includes Jesus' frustration due to a lack of faith
    - (1) In Mark, the father has faith issues
    - (2) In Matthew, the disciples have faith issues
2. So, which is it? – It is both
- a) Father lacks faith because he struggles to believe God
    - (1) Does God even care? Who am I to ask for such a thing? Will it even work?
  - b) Disciples lack faith because they rely on routines instead of God
    - (1) Were sent out and had success just last week
    - (2) They tried to do what worked last time, not trust God
  - c) The whole situation lacked faith
    - (1) Jesus was frustrated – went from glory on the mountain to unbelief
    - (2) Parallel to Moses and the golden calf
3. *But, I want to draw your attention to vs 43*
- a) *They were astonished at the majesty (μεγαλειότης) of God*
  - b) *Same word Peter used when describing the transfiguration [2 Peter 1:16-18]*
    - (1) *The majesty on the mountain is the majesty in the valley*
    - (2) *The same greatness, magnificence, and glory present in the special, holy moments is present in your day-to-day life*
  - c) *You don't have to "go somewhere holy" or special to meet the Lord*
    - (1) *You can meet him tomorrow morning on the way to work*
    - (2) *And this reality should leave us marveled*

### **C. Luke 9:43-50**

- 1. As the disciples marveled at the majesty of Jesus, it was reality-check time
  - a) "Let these words sink in" Jesus is going to die
  - b) Couldn't understand because it was concealed or hidden
  - c) But, they didn't ask because they were afraid
- 2. And now we get to Luke's thrust of this chapter – death

- a) What is happening?
    - (1) Jesus has started the journey to Jerusalem
    - (2) Whole journey is marked with death
    - (3) Death at the end (crucifixion) and death on the road (surrender)
  - b) *When we follow Jesus, we walk this same journey of death*
    - (1) *Put to death your unbelief and fear of asking questions*
    - (2) *Surrender your desire to be popular and get ahead at other's expense*
    - (3) *Die to pointing out other's failures to make you look better*
    - (4) *Crucify your sense of competition and restricting other's access*
    - (5) *Bury your sense of greatness and majesty, because His is better*
3. This last story really drives home the point...

### III. Conclusion

#### **A. Luke 9:51-62**

1. Jesus sets his face toward Jerusalem
  - a) Meaning, there is only one thing that matters now – the coming exodus
  - b) Status, acceptance, competition, possessions – nothing matters
  - c) Christ has fixed His eyes on the road to death
2. *Why does Luke want us to see this?*
  - a) *So we will fix our eyes on the same thing*
    - (1) *No more revenge*
    - (2) *No more worrying about homes or where to lay your head*
    - (3) *No more trying to make people happy or keeping up appearances*
    - (4) *No more sense of loyalty to corrupt earthly systems*
    - (5) *And most of all, no more looking back*
3. *The picture Luke paints is clear*
  - a) *The road to Jerusalem is marked by surrender and death to self*
  - b) *It is a narrow road, that many choose to ignore*
  - c) *But, it is the road of our King and it is the road we must walk*
  - d) *It is a road of death, but you will find His majesty when you walk it*