

And They Glorified God (Part 1)

Sermon Series: **Luke: All Things New**



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 5:17-26



Big Idea

If we are to glorify God as we've been created to do, then we must both see Him truly and savor Him deeply.

(1) A Basic Definition

This word glorify (Gk. *doxazo*) means something like this: "To influence one's opinion about another so as to enhance the latter's reputation." To glorify God then means in some way to enhance His reputation in the world.

But when we glorify God it is not that we are adding anything to Him but that we are coming to see more of who He has always been and responding to this revelation appropriately. To put a picture on it for us, we might think of God as the blazing sun and the world as the front room in a house. Since the fall, a curtain has been drawn between God and the world, between the sun and this room in which we all live. When you and I glorify God it's as if we walk up to that curtain and draw it just a little bit further back, letting just a little bit more light into the room. Certainly we are not to think that by our action we somehow made the sun any brighter than it has always been. But we did help others come to see more of its brightness, its eternal brightness.

And in that sense we can enhance God's reputation in the world while not adding a single thing to it.

(2) A Fundamental Dynamic

Here's what I think our text tells us is fundamental to glorifying God: *Seeing* Him and *Savoring* Him.

So then, first we must see Him truly! How you ask? Where am I supposed to see Him now in the 21st century? He's been gone for millennia. Do you remember what Jesus says to the Jews in John 5:39: "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me." Do you want to see Jesus in 2017? Make it a year where you live in this Book!

And second, we must savor Him deeply! How you ask? I can't change my heart. You're right. But Christ can. That's what He's come to do—to take hearts of stone and make them soft for God by His Spirit. Do you remember the two on the road to Emmaus? They read the Bible and they didn't see anything. Until the risen Christ led them in a study, opened their eyes, and set fire to their hearts: "They said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?'" (Luke 24:32).

Reflection Questions



- Why do you think God created us to glorify Him? How does this idea make you feel? Does it seem arrogant or selfish of God? Why or why not?
- Have you tried to live for your own glory? What happens? Have you experienced living life for God's glory? What's different about it?
- What would it look like for you to "do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor 10:31)? Are you doing this? Why or why not?
- How have you experienced the Fundamental Dynamic of seeing and savoring God? Why do you think this is so critical to glorifying Him?
- Which side of this dynamic are you more prone to fall of—savoring Him without truly seeing Him, or seeing Him without deeply savoring Him? What can you do to grow in this?