

A Vision and a Voice

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 9:28-36



Big Idea

On the Mount of Transfiguration, God gives us a vision of future glory and a voice to cling to in the valley all with the aim of sustaining us as we take up our cross daily and follow after Christ.

How do you respond to suffering? The world tries to avoid suffering at any cost. But for a Christian, Jesus says our approach is to be much different. While we don't needlessly run towards suffering, we don't run from it either. We take the cross on our backs before we even begin. We expect it. We embrace it. We follow behind our Savior and trust Him to get us through it—to ultimately save us from it. And, in this way, even in the face of hardship and trial, we are able to continue producing the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, etc. But the question that this sermon is going to attempt to answer is: *How?*

(1) A Vision

On this mountain, God is showing us that if we hope in Jesus our hope is not in vain. He is the answer, whatever your question may be. He is the solution, whatever your problem may be. Will there be troubled times ahead? Yes. But will there be glory in the end? More than we could ever conceive!

Jesus takes Peter, John, and James with Him up this mountain to show them this, to give them a sneak-peek of His coming glory, so that they won't be derailed when they see Him hanging lifeless on the cross, so that they would know, it's not over, this is not how it ends. There's a kingdom being established and, in Christ, we get to be a part of it. This is where God is taking us. No more death, no more pain, no more tears, no more separation anxiety. We will be with God. We will behold His glory. We will even share in His glory, in His life, in His victory, in His joy. He gives us a vision of future glory as a way of sustaining us in present distress.

(2) A Voice

But God gives us more than just a vision here on this mountain. He gives us a voice—the voice of Christ: “Listen to Him!” (v. 35). God knows this vision is coming to an end. The curtain needs to close once more. You got a sneak-peek but the full feature film hasn't yet hit the theaters. To get to the glory you see here Jesus has to get through the suffering, the shame, the death . . . the cross.

So Moses and Elijah disappear, the glory cloud departs, the lightning brightness of Jesus fades. And they have to descend from the Mount of Transfiguration back down into the valley of demons (cf. Luke 9:37-43). And here's the point: In the valley of demons, they no longer have that same mountaintop vision, but they still have His voice—His word. It was confirmed in the vision. You can trust what He has to say, even when you don't see it with your eyes.

Reflection Questions



- Describe a time God gave you a mountaintop vision of Himself. What Bible texts did He use in particular? What has stuck with you since? How has this vision sustained you in suffering?
- Describe a time God sustained you with a word of Scripture, even when your eyes felt dim and your heart cold. What verses have you clung to even in the dark night of the soul?
- What hardship are you facing even now as you read this (however big or small)? How have you been responding to it up to this point? How does the vision and voice of Christ as portrayed in Luke 9:28-36 bring help? How might it sustain you in your cross-bearing and enable your fruit-producing? What will change as you face the hardship going forward?