

**Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)**

**Luke 9: 28-43**

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the Bible again. We'll continue to read Luke Chapter 9 and today we will read verses 28 to 43.

**Verse 28: "Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray."**

After the great confession at Caesarea Philippi, there were eight days. What happened during those eight days is not recorded in the Gospels. Of course, following that great confession that Jesus is the Christ, Jesus told His disciples that they must take up their cross and follow Him. He also said that if they wanted to preserve their soul-life, they would lose it. These were very weighty words. After hearing them, on the one hand the disciples reflected on them, perhaps not very clearly understanding; on the other hand, they felt the burden was too heavy to bear. Therefore, those eight days were likely a time of silence.

Many times, after we receive a lofty revelation of God or make a fervent consecration, God usually gives us a period of silence. He does this so that we would not merely remain in that revelation, but through a period of time, bring such realization into our practical living and into our experience. After eight days had passed, Jesus took Peter, John, and James up onto a mountain to pray; this is what we often call the Mount of Transfiguration, which was likely near Mount Hermon. Jesus did not take all the disciples with Him; He only took Peter, James, and John, and went up onto the mountain to pray.

**Verse 29: “As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.”**

This was an important turning point in Jesus’ earthly ministry. Paul the Apostle tells us that Jesus is the last Adam. When God originally created Adam and placed him in the Garden of Eden, the position God gave Adam was extremely exalted. For he was created in the image of God and according to God’s likeness, and God appointed him to rule over all that He had created. However, Adam fell and lost the glorious image with which God had originally created man. And Jesus is the last Adam.

From His birth until this point, Jesus had experienced thirty years of quiet human living, and afterward He began to preach. In the course of His ministry, three years had passed, and now it had come to the final six months. It seems that in prayer, Jesus had a very intimate fellowship with the Triune God. Not only was there fellowship, but it was as though the Triune God fully acknowledged that He had restored the glorious image in which God created man. Therefore, His appearance was transformed, and His clothing became white and radiant. All that man lost in the first Adam was fully recovered in Jesus Christ.

If it had been only for Himself, He could at that point have gone directly back to heaven, for He had restored God’s original purpose in creating man and had received God’s complete approval and affirmation. But His coming to earth was not merely to restore the glorious image in which God created man, nor was it only for Himself; rather, it was that He would become the redeeming Lamb for all, bringing forth a new and living way for everyone who believes in Him, so that each one might be restored again to the image in which God originally created Adam.

**Verse 30: “And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah.”**

These two men represent the Old Testament: Moses was the one through whom the Law was given, and Elijah was the representative of the prophets. These two came to speak with Jesus.

**Verse 31: “who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.”**

One represented the Law. When everything Jesus had done up to that point was compared with God’s Law, He had completely fulfilled all its requirements. The other represented the prophets. After Jesus had satisfied every requirement of the Law, He was qualified to become the sin-bearing Lamb; having passed through every kind of testing, He fully met the standards of the Law. Then, according to the prophecies of the prophets, He would become the ransom for all. Therefore, under God’s sovereign authority, Moses and Elijah were especially arranged to speak with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. What did they speak about? They spoke concerning His coming death and suffering in Jerusalem—at such a great and significant moment.

**Verse 32: “But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him.”**

Peter and his companions were drowsy. Man truly is weak—while Jesus was praying, they all fell asleep. When Jesus was speaking with Moses and Elijah, they became fully awake. And being awake, they saw His glory, and the two men who stood with Him.

**Verse 33: “Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, that Peter said to Jesus, ‘Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah’—not knowing what he said.”**

Perhaps while they were in their sleep, they did not hear Jesus speak about His going to Jerusalem to suffer and die. They only saw that Jesus was so glorious, standing together with Moses and Elijah—it truly seemed indescribably good. Therefore Peter said, “It is good for us to be here. Let us make three tabernacles:

one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” Yet he did not know what he was saying.

**Verse 34-35: “While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!’”**

Peter spoke wrongly. He inappropriately placed Jesus on the same level as Moses and Elijah—building three tabernacles: one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. Immediately, God Himself intervened and interrupted Peter’s words from within the cloud. God especially emphasized, “This is My Son, My Beloved, the One whom I have specially chosen and set apart. You must listen to Him alone.”

Moses was merely the one through whom the Law was given, and Elijah was merely the one through whom God’s heart was declared to the people. But the One standing before you—Jesus—is My beloved Son. He has fulfilled all the requirements of the Law, He has accomplished all the prophecies of the prophets, and He is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased—the One whom you alone must hear and obey.

**Verse 36: “When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen.”**

May we each one, someday, come to know this reality—that we see no one except Jesus alone.

**Verse 37-38: “ Now it happened on the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, that a great multitude met Him. Suddenly a man from the multitude cried out, saying, ‘Teacher, I implore You, look on my son, for he is my only child.’”**

On the mountain, God especially testified to Peter, James, and John that Jesus is His Son—His only begotten, beloved Son, the One He treasures. And at the foot of the mountain, there was a man who also had his only son.

**Verse 39-40: “And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out; it convulses him so that he foams at the mouth; and it departs from him with great difficulty, bruising him. So I implored Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.”**

On the mountain, God’s beloved Son was so holy, righteous, and glorious; at the foot of the mountain, a man’s only son was possessed by a demon and being harmed by it. Originally, he too was created in the image of God, but now he was seized by the demon, doing all sorts of things that harmed himself. This father said to Jesus, “I pleaded with Your disciples to cast out the demon, but they could not.”

**Verse 41: “Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.”**

Jesus sighed over this unbelieving and perverse generation. In this generation, those whom God created were possessed by demons and controlled by Satan, harming themselves day by day, yet no one could help them. Even Jesus’ disciples were unable to help. For Jesus had taken only Peter, James, and John up the mountain; at the foot of the mountain were the other nine disciples, who perhaps had tried, but were unable to cast out the demon.

**Verse 42-43: “And as he was still coming, the demon threw him down and convulsed him. Then Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the child, and gave him back to his father. And they were all amazed at the majesty of God.”**

This passage clearly shows us why we cannot follow Peter's suggestion to build three tabernacles, keeping Jesus on the mountain and His disciples there as well. The Transfiguration on the mountain was indeed glorious, holy, and beautiful; but at the foot of the mountain, many people were possessed by demons, afflicted with sickness, and had all sorts of needs.

The purpose of going up the mountain was for going down the mountain. To enjoy God's presence on the mountain, to experience the glorious provision of God, was so that there could be help for the people with all their needs at the foot of the mountain. Jesus Himself gave the most beautiful testimony: on the mountain, He was God's only begotten Son. Yet He was willing to lay aside all His honor, to relinquish all His glory, and go down the mountain to save every lost and wandering person. He hoped that His disciples could continue His ministry: first, experiencing Him on the mountain and receiving His full provision; then going down the mountain to bring healing to those in need in this crooked and perverse age.

These two events placed together clearly teach that anyone today who desires to follow Jesus Christ, anyone who belongs to Him, must first experience His glory on the mountain, receive His abundant supply, and recognize that He is God's only begotten Son, whom we must listen to alone. Then He will lead us and commission us to go down the mountain to face the people in need. If we are fully united with Him, we will be able to meet every need at the foot of the mountain.

Let us pray together: Lord, thank You. You have placed us in each church so that we have the responsibilities we must fulfill. Lord, You first supply us, equip us, and perfect us; during the time we fulfill our duties on earth, let us recognize that You are the source of our strength. Only You can meet all the needs of people. Help us to lay down ourselves, and help us to go into the crowds. Bless the ministries we hold in our hands. We pray in the holy name of Jesus Christ. Amen!