

Intro: Finish the series on Great Design: Discovering How God Uniquely Designed us to serve Him and others
Spiritual Gifts; Ruling Passions; Experiences; Abilities (natural) ; Type of Personality

We have been saying that the most fulfillment you will ever experience in life will come when you discover your design...and use it

Trans: That is a reality the disciples are struggling with in the passage we are going to look at this morning

Just like us, they are struggling with the trap of believing that the ultimate, the best of life is about just hanging out with Jesus...

They didn't understand that they were created to serve God...and others...so God sends them...and us a message

He tells them...and he shows them...that life is lived to the fullest when you use what you have to serve Him...and others!

Mt 17:1-23 Pg 694

After 6 Days (He told them...use everything you have to serve me...follow me...lay down your life...didn't get it!)

So...now he is going to live it out for them...going to show them...illustrate...just what life is all about!

1. First, Notice The Temptation of The Mountaintop Experience! Vs 1-8

- **Disciples Desire:** "It is GOOD for us to be here (remain) I love the mountaintop! Great place...See Jesus, Experience Good: Lit= a beautiful thing, a lovely thing, an attractive thing
We feel that way about church...for most of us...it is our "mountaintop" experience...

Disciples on Mountain

Worship (God is here, Jesus in Glory)

Discipleship (Learn from Moses and Elijah!)

Fellowship (Spend time with God in the cloud!)

Ministry (Build temple, stay here...serve God)

Evangelism (If they get up here...tell them)

Us on our Mountain

God meets us here...Let's hang out with Him

Come and go deeper

Be in God's presence, and with other Christians

Serve one another...meet needs...take care of each other

If they come...we will welcome them

Peter wants what we want...he wants to stay! He is so caught up in the wonder of what is going on...bible says...Let's camp here!

And when he says that...God does something that He only did times in Jesus ministry...**3X** Baptism, Prediction of Death, Here

- **God's Direction:**

~*Listen to Jesus:* We don't know exactly what Jesus said. None of the 3 accounts give us insight.

But, we know it included at least one thing...*Don't stay in the holy huddle!*

The next thing we see...they are headed down the mountain.

I am going to use a little holy imagination here...I think God intervened to tell them...

Leave the mountaintop...and go down into the valley

I have you there not just for yourself...to be with me...You have a purpose in life...go fulfill it!

I think that is important to know, because not only does the Mountaintop experience Tempt us...It Blinds us!

2. The Blindness of the Mountaintop.

Here is a spiritual reality that I think we forget sometime. The mountaintop experiences are so wonderful, so great

- **The spiritual mountaintop experiences, including those that come from belonging to a good church, Blind us!**

We get so captured by the Glory of being with God, worshipping Him, knowing Him, Enjoying Him, Learning of Him

That we forget...We can't see the Pain, and the Hurt, and the Suffering down below!

If we aren't careful, we become just like Peter, James and John up on the mountaintop...Loving what God is doing for them

But completely blind to what is going on down in the valley!

- **Down in the valley...there is pain, there is hurt, there is suffering, there is confusion...but they don't see it! Blind!**

~*Father:* Heartbroken for His son

~*Pharisees:* Leading People down the wrong path

~*Son:* Life that is miserable...painful

~*Crowd:* Don't see Jesus...following wrong people!

~*Other Disciples:* Struggling...trying to help...cant

Church can do that to us...We are captured by what is going on in here...but...forget what it is like out there!

Sometimes...if we aren't careful, we can only see the glory and the goodness we have...forget...its not like that for everyone!

- **It's only when God speaks loudly enough...in an unusual enough way to get our attention..that we open our eyes**

~God Speaks to our hearts: ~Jesus comes to us ~He touches our heart ~Leads us down the mountain..to people

He brings us down to the valley and he opens our eyes, and he says...look at all the hurting people

- **Understand the Pattern God uses to lead us down from the mountaintop**

God speaks (tells us what to do) We Obey (Before we see the need!) Need becomes obvious We Act!

Mt 9:35-36 Jesus Went: Jesus Saw: Jesus Had Compassion

You and I need to follow the same pattern. First we obey...to go...Then we See...Then our heart is moved

3. The Limitation Of the Mountaintop. Vs 14-18

As wonderful as the mountaintops are in our spiritual life, there are some things we need to remember.

- Most people...esp those that need Jesus the most...aren't coming to the mountaintop (church)
- When we stay up on top of the mountain...We are keeping Jesus to ourself...away from them!
- As wonderful as the mountaintop is...the need...is down in the valley!

CONCL: For Most of us, the Church is out mountain top! Love, Celebrate, Fellowship, Grow, Worship

Encourage you...enjoy it...grow in it (prepares you for ministry) Out by prayer...Ready for Departure

Don't forget the valley: Don't forget the Fathers brokenhearted, Children hurting, Crowd confused

As wonderful as the mountaintop is...Seeing Him, worshipping Him, Watching Him

It Pales in comparison to working with Him hand in hand! That is what you were made for...Look today at glimpses...

Keep that in mind As great as it is to see him...It is more wonderful to share in his work!

