

Black Mountain North Carolina, Ridgecrest Conference Center, Looking over the Mountains Reading Bible: Promise!
Illus: Habakkuk 1:5 Promise for the ministry at RTBC So Clear, So Strong, So Powerful Commissioned Calligraphy!

Have you ever had a spiritual mountaintop experience? Time when God shows up in a special powerful way?
It's a time when He meets you so powerfully, speaks so directly, almost like He is right there with you!

Worship: Bible Study Prayer Time Devotional

That is what is going on in Luke 9. It is a spiritual AND a literal mountaintop experience! Ministry has been taking place at an incredible pace. (*Sermon on Mt; Miracles; 72; Feed 5000; Raised dead*) Disciples are fully engaged now. Now, they are about to see Jesus in a brand new way. He is going to SHOW them MORE, Takes them to mountain

Luke 9:28-43

1. Jesus Meets Us On The Mountaintop In A Special Way.

Vs 28

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| • Encourages: | Re-energizes, Restores, Renews, Strengthens |
| • Nourishes: | Provides and Prepares Us for More |
| • Reveals Presence of God Special Way | We meet Him, experience Him deeply |
| • Different Kind of Inner Work | The things ONLY God can do |
| • Touchstone: | 30 years...Go back to THAT day in worst of times |

Given OUR way, we would do just what Peter wanted to do: Let's build a place...settle down: STAY HERE! GOOD!
We LOVE the Mountaintop Experiences. Everything within us says, We don't want to leave...It's too good.
Here is what we forget...What WE don't see...What we overlook in our joy of meeting God in such a special way...

2. Just like Jesus, OUR CALL is to the Valley!

Vs 37

Listen to me now: The Jesus of YOUR Mountaintop is ALSO their Jesus down in the Valley! Called To Valley
And if Jesus would have done it Peter's way, stayed on mountaintop...enjoying God: Nothing ever change in Valley!

All too often followers of Jesus get so focused on the goodness of God on the mountaintop...forget people in valley
We are LOVING the splendor, enjoying the word from God, amazed at what is happening, captures our heart.

- We Don't See: Boy tormented down in the valley...afflicted since birth...no life at all!
- We Don't See: Father in despair because he has done everything (begging, weeping, crying on knees)
- We Don't see: Other disciples (9) Attacked by religious, discouraged, unable to help, confused!
(Just a little while earlier they had been sent out 2x2, authority of demons: WHAT?)
- We Don't see: Crowd losing faith, questioning, because the disciples could not help

But Jesus sees them! AND, Jesus remembers His purpose, Doesn't get distracted by Mountaintop...Stays on target
He sees everyone of them. All the hurt, all the pain, all the confusion, all the despair...Sees the Valley and Mountain

Applic: Some of us treat Church like a mountaintop: We come and enjoy, we come and rejoice, soak, Refuge Restore
We FORGET! There are HURTING PEOPLE down in the valley...desperate for Jesus to come down, for the 3 disciples to come down, because they can't endure anymore, they can't sustain any longer, they cant answer or explain, or help!
As much as you love mountain, don't ever forget...YOUR CALL IS TO THE VALLEY, *Mountain PREPARES, Not PURPOSE*
When you leave here today...I want you to leave with OPEN EYES, OPEN HEARTS, Looking for people in need

3. The Purpose of Mountaintop Experience Was To Prepare: Through PRAYER!

Vs 28

He took them here to PRAY! Everything Else...was secondary! They were there to PRAY:

1. For the future work on the Cross! Vs 29-31
2. For the future work in the Valley! Mt 17:20 Faith Mk 9:29 ONLY BY PRAYER

Jesus Pattern Was to Pray BEFORE every Major Ministry Event

- Begin Public Ministry: 40 days in wilderness
- Major Healings: Prayer
- Major teaching: Pray
- Before Cross: In Garden of Gethsemane

Jesus didn't go up on the mountain that day to impress and dazzle the disciples: He went to PREPARE FOR MINISTRY! There was a SPIRITUAL SHOWDOWN Coming With the Forces of Hell:

- Fathers Faith was shaking...ready to give up on God
- Other 9 disciples were confused, defeated, shaken, needed to be restored
- Crowd was watching and wondering...was HE REALLY the Messiah
- Spiritual leaders were carrying the day, questioning disciples, misleading the crowd
- Little boys health, spiritual life and eternity on line

There was a showdown coming...So Jesus did what He always did...He went to pray

WHY PRAY? What Is Jesus Teaching the Disciples by taking them with Him?

1. Some problems are too hard for us to fix. (*Debt too high, health too bad, relationship too broken, Hope Gone*)
2. Nothing in the human condition is too hard for God!
3. We don't fail for a lack of POWER...we fail for a lack of PRAYER! (He tells them that at the end!)
4. We are POWERLESS because we are PRAYERLESS!

The hard work of redemption and restoration, freedom is accomplished in the presence of God in prayer, not in the presence of people in the moment of battle. Jesus ENTERED the battle prayed up and ready. THAT'S why He went up on the mountain...He KNEW what was coming up.

And He knows what tomorrow holds for you too! But if we WAIT til the moment of the battle to pray...its too late. We need to show up at the battle, locked and loaded, prayed up and powerful, ready to face down the forces of Hell! But, like the 9 disciples, we get comfortable, we get the "*been there got the t-shirt*" done that already attitude. And we fail for lack of prayer. When we are prayerless...we are powerless.

Applic: Are you going into the week ahead prepared...prayed up...powerful spiritually? Ready for anything? Or, do you wait, until you are in the midst of the battle...being overcome by the enemy...to pray: Too Late!

Jesus comes down the mountain with the disciples. Sees the Crowd, disciples, religious leaders heckling the disciples, asks: Asks...what are you arguing about? Notice: Disciples don't answer: Ashamed; Leaders; Afraid, THE FATHER! He is so desperate, so needy, so concerned for his son, He spills it all. My Son, Your Disciples, Failed, "But if You Can!!!)

3. Four Most Important Words In The Story: "Bring Him To Me!" Mark 9:41

Sometimes the most profound truths are expressed very simply. "Bring him to me!" "Bring your son to me!" Jesus cuts through all of the pain, all of the despair, all of the confusion with four simple words. He doesn't stop to explain, He doesn't argue with the religious leaders, He goes straight to the heart of the matter: Bring Him to me!

THAT is the very essence of what we need to be about in a desperate, hurting, overwhelmed and dying world. Bring them to Jesus. For far too long we have been trying to be circumspect and careful, not wanting to offend. Listen, I don't care WHO I offend if I am able to save one lost and dying soul from eternity. Bring them to Jesus!

- Broken marriage: Bring them to Jesus
- Failed Finances: Bring them to Jesus
- Bad Health: Bring them to Jesus
- Work issues, Home Issues, Relationship Issues, Spiritual issues, abuse issues: Bring them to Jesus:

He can do what you and I cannot do!

Our world doesn't need more church, more groups, more worship, more study: It needs more JESUS!
(As Worship Team Comes Back To Stage)

And our world...Needs you and I...to get off of the top of the mountain...and down where people are hurting...and start bringing them to Jesus! And just like in the story...it starts with prayer.

CONCL: Challenge for you this morning. If you have a "problem" whatever it might be, bring it to Jesus! That is what an invitation time is for. Don't wait. Don't put it off. Don't stall and say: Later: Come down here, get on your knees before God and bring your pain, your hurt, you friend, family, your doubts, confusion, questions: Bring them to Jesus!

- Ask you one question: Battles you are fighting: Have you brought it to Jesus?
- This week, when someone says.... My marriage, my finances, my kids, my work: Ask: Have you brought it to Jesus? If they say no: Can I pray for you? Will you come to church with me and we can pray there together?