

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expository Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 9- Luke 9:26-36**

174- The Son of Man Coming in His Kingdom- Part 1

August 19, 2012

Luke 9:26-36

26 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and *the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.*

27 "But I say to you truthfully, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."

28 Some eight days after these sayings, He took along Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.

29 And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing *became white and gleaming.*

30 And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah,

31 who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

32 Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep; but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him.

33 And as these were leaving Him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tabernacles: one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah" — not realizing what he was saying.

34 While he was saying this, a cloud formed and *began* to overshadow them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.

35 Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My Son, *My Chosen One*; listen to Him!"

36 And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent, and reported to no one in those days any of the things which they had seen.

To the Glory of God

Now we need to know that Christianity is a *revealed* religion. Everything that we know about the one, true, living God has been revealed to us *by* God. Without God, voluntarily, revealing Himself- to the extent that He has- we would not know *anything* about God. And God chose to reveal Himself to Man basically in two ways:

- ✓ Visibly and Tangibly Through His Creation
- ✓ Verbally Through His Word

The *visible* and *tangible* Revelation of the triune God is manifested through the spender and grandeur and the order and the preciseness and the complexity of His Creation, called The Universe- and is known as “General Revelation”. And the *verbal* Revelation of God- that contains the visions and the signs and the wonders and the miracles and the angelic visitations and the Words and Will of God was put down in writing as 40 men over a 1500 year time frame were moved upon by the Holy Spirit to write 66 perfect and infallible and inerrant and authoritative and relevant and sufficient Books which make up the Holy Scriptures and is known as “Specific or Special Revelation”.

And God the Holy Spirit takes those two vehicles of Divine Revelation and makes clear in our hearts- Who God is and What God has done and what God has said. So everything we know about God that is true- God Himself has had to reveal that to us.

Now that doesn't mean that we know everything about God- because we don't. There are aspects about God and His Ways that He has chosen to keep hidden from us. And there are verses and passages in the Bible that can only be fully understood by knowing that hidden information- which we don't- so we are left to simply agree with Scripture and trust that God will reveal those things to us in Heaven.

But part of God's Own Self- disclosure is the issue of God's Glory. And as I have told you on numerous occasions- God is infinitely glorious and God loves His Own Glory and God is passionate about His Own Glory and God seeks to be glorified in, by, and through everything He says and everything He does.

And God is jealous for His Own Flory and God enjoys being glorified and that is what true worship is all about- giving God the

Glory that He is entitled to receive. And that is why we struggle so hard against the lusts of our flesh- by the Power of the indwelling Holy Spirit- so that we may live our daily lives in humble and joyful submission to the Authority of Scripture- which is God's revealed Word and Will- because by doing that- we are giving God the maximum amount of Glory that frail weak humans can give in this life.

Now "the Glory of God" is probably the single most common phrase that is uttered among genuinely born again believers. We talk often about the Glory of God and we pray about it and we preach about it- but just what *is* the Glory of God? In my travels as I sit with people from all over and ask them to describe for me the Glory of God- I usually get two or three word answers such as, "*it is great*" or "*it is awesome*" or "*it is wonderful*" but very few ever talk in any depth about something that is supposed to be the primary purpose of all Creation.

So I am here today to remind you of the Glory of God. I am here to remind you that God's infinite Passion for His Own Glory is basic and fundamental to the God that we love and serve. I am here to remind you that the God of the Bible doesn't do *anything* in the Universe unless it brings Himself Glory. And that one single concept which dominates the Scriptures and which comprises the overwhelming majority of the entirety of all that is written in these 66 Books is put forth to us by the various human writers in three different ways:

- A. When God says, "*For My Glory!*"
- B. When God Says, "*For my Name's Sake!*"
- C. When God says, "*So they will know that there is none like unto me in all the earth*"

All three of those statements that are found from cover to cover in the Bible all say the same thing- God does what He does for no other reason other than it brings Himself Glory.

So since this Glory is infinitely important to God- it should be infinitely important to us. For example- **Isaiah 43:7** says that we all were created- *not* to do our own thing and *not* to live our lives according to the dictates of our own heart- but we were created for God's Glory. **Isaiah 48:9** and **1John 2:12** says that the only reason that God does not vanquish us in His Anger but forgives us is *not* because we are such fine people or that we are *entitled* to that forgiveness but because of His

Own Name's sake. And **Exodus 9:14** says that the reason that God delivers his Children and saves them is *not* because of *their* personal value- but so that the entire world will know that there is none like God in all the earth.

In fact Paul taught in **2Thessalonians 1:10** that the main purpose as to why the Lord will burst through the clouds of Heaven and return with great Power and Glory is so that He will be glorified by his saints and be admired by all those who believe. Yea, verily Jesus Himself said in **Matthew 5:16** that the entire purpose as to why we as believers are to do "good works" in our communities among the lost is so that men will *see* those "good works" and glorify our Father Who is in Heaven.

The Reformers were so captivated by this one single subject that they taught the Latin phrase, *Soli Deo Gloria*- that everything we do in the Church and in our families and in our lives and with our money and in our minds and in our hearts should be to the Glory of God. And that Truth goes so far up as to dictate the great and earthshaking elements of our lives and it goes so far down to be the catalyst as to what we eat and what we drink.

Now contrast that high view of God that leaves us breathless and speechless at the Grandeur of God's Glory with what is being taught far too often in the modern Church as it is common to hear terms like:

- ✓ Self- Fulfillment
- ✓ Self Esteem
- ✓ Self- Help
- ✓ Self- Expression

Those humanistic and unbiblical and pagan terms seek to diminish the Glory of God as they expand the glory of Man. So why would believers ever use them?

So the Glory of God is fundamental to God and fundamental to the Church and so the most vivid expression of God's Glory; the most astounding manifestation of the Glory of God; the single most tangible substance of the Majesty of God's Glory is *not* found in a waterfall or a sunset or a supernova or even a child's eyes- but is found in the very Face of the Lord Jesus Christ as God saves unworthy sinners by Grace alone through Faith alone in the finished Work of Christ alone.

And since that is true- we must know that satan is deathly afraid of the Glory of God and that is why the Apostle Paul said in **2Corinthians 4:4:**

the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

So satan hates the Glory of Jesus and labors with all his might to keep it from being seen because the “seeing” of God’s Glory for what it is- is the transformation of everything else. The Apostle also said this in **2Corinthians 3:18:**

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Now we talk a lot today about having marriages for the Glory of God and of handling our money for the Glory of God and of running our businesses for the Glory of God and of living our lives to the Glory of God but I suggest to you that if we are really serious about all that- then we need to realize that there is a certain priority or order between those things and the Glory of God and that is this:

God and His Glory is ultimate- and those things are not

God is the most important reality and our marriages and our money and our businesses and our lives are less important. *Far less* important... *infinitely* less important. Marriages exist to magnify God; Money and all our possessions and even life itself – all of these things exist to magnify the Value and the Worth and the Importance of God. God does *not* exist to magnify marriage or our possessions or even our lives. And until that order is firm in our minds and truly valued in our hearts- our marriages and our businesses and our possessions and our lives will not “be” to the Glory of God.

So I suggest to you that we need to stop talking so much about our marriages and our money and our businesses and our lives and we need to talk more about the Glory of God until God visits us once again and until we have a genuine, Heaven sent revival of falling in love with God

again and until we have a revival of being in awe of God again and of standing astounded with our mouths gaping at God again; and until we have revival of the fear of the Lord- that reverential respect of this glorious God.

So let me encourage you today to not be so enamored over your smart phones or your I-pads or the latest technological or medical advancements or the latest special effects of *Avatar* but that we all become once again enamored with God as being the single most glorious and lovely and important and worthwhile Being in the Universe.

The Bible teaches us that everything exists for the Glory of God and so everything is here- to magnify and exalt and display and declare the Value and the Worth and the Beauty and the Importance of God. And so I say to you that the same thing holds true for Salvation. Salvation exists- not simply so we can miss the lake of fire and spend eternity reunited with those who have gone before us as we walk on streets of gold.

But Salvation was created by God for the Glory of God. And the Justification of unworthy sinners through the Grace and Mercy of an infinitely Righteous God declares the Beauty and the Importance and the Value and the Worth of God far better than anything else.

And nothing illustrates the Glory of God more than the Kingdom of God where all of the artificial filters of sin and flesh and disease and war and injustice and poverty and wickedness and fallenness will be removed and we will see God as He really is.

And over the years- the leaders of the modern Church have taken the magnificent Glory of God and turned it into a despicable thing and began to worship the creature- man- rather than the Creator Who is blessed forever, amen.

And this has been going on for so long now that when God's Glory is spoken of- most people today immediately begin to think about what would please them and what would make much of them and what would exalt them and what would improve their own lives and bring about their *own* ambitions and fulfill their *own* dreams and God is completely left out of the equation.

I just heard on the radio yesterday- a very famous and very popular Christian singer- who has a wonderful voice- talk about why Jesus died on the Cross. She said that Jesus died so that we could all fulfill our own individual personal dreams and God does that for us so

that we can help other people fulfill their dreams too. She really doesn't have a clue.

And this way of thinking is precisely why the same people whom Jesus fed and the same people whom Jesus healed and the same people whom Jesus cast demons out of stood there and cried out for His execution. Jesus did not continue to meet their self-centered and sinful and carnal expectations and what they wanted out of God and so they turned on the spotless Lamb of God to look for another "savior".

It really didn't take the people in Palestine very long at all to forget all about the miracle Birth and the angelic announcement and the host of heaven and the sinless Son of God lying in a horse trough and to turn from sweet and tender thoughts concerning that Child to vicious bitter and hostile and deadly plans against the young man Jesus Christ.

By the age of 33- the Jewish and Gentile world had come together to murder the only perfectly sinless Man Who ever lived. And for the lost pagan world at that time- the very last view of Jesus that they saw was Him hanging on a Cross- screaming in agony. Only Jesus' followers saw Him after the Resurrection; only His disciples saw Him ascend into Heaven. The last public view of Jesus was of an accused and pronounced guilty criminal hanging in the most despicable fashion on a Cross. The Crucifixion was only done to the riff-raff; the low life; the scum of society. And from the Gentile standpoint- it was the way to demonstrate the most disdain for the most wretched kind of person.

From a Jewish standpoint- Jesus hanging on that Cross was a demonstration that this person had been cursed by God. So from the Gentile standpoint- it meant you were cursed by Man and from the Jewish standpoint- it meant that he was cursed by God.

And so there was Jesus hanging- cursed by both Man and God and numbered with the lowest- with thieves and the scum of the earth. A despicable way to treat anybody- and therefore in the minds of most people- since Jesus was treated that way- he must have deserved it.

And that's the last image that the world had of Jesus- the bloody and screaming Jesus- hanging naked for all the world to see. And that image is continually reinforced by millions and millions of crucifixes that have Jesus still hanging on that Cross- spread around by the Roman religious system.

But that is not the last view that this world will have because the Scriptures declare that Jesus will come again. After His death He rose from the dead and was seen by over 500 eyewitnesses- according to the New Testament. After that, the risen Lord communicated with His Own Apostles for a period of 40 days and 40 nights, and then Jesus physically and bodily and literally ascended up into Heaven- He was taken up in the view of all 500 of them- as recorded in **The Book of the Acts 1**.

But before going- Jesus promised that He would come back the same way that he left. In fact- His Return to this earth in the near future is not something that is a secret because Jesus Himself made it very public.

When the high priest said to Jesus at His mock trial in **Matthew 26:63**:

"I adjure you by the living God that you tell us whether you are the Christ the Son of God."

Jesus answered him with these words,

"You have said it yourself, nevertheless I tell you hereafter you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

And, of course, the high priest ripped his garments at such blasphemy from his perspective. Jesus said, *"You haven't seen the last of Me. The next time you see Me you're going to see Me coming with power and glory."*

The two Comings of Jesus- the first one at His Birth as a baby, the second at His coronation as a King. The first one in humility- the second in glory. The first one as a Servant- the second as a Sovereign. The two comings of Jesus are the focus of Bible prophecy. They are the two great themes of biblical prophecy. There are 330 plus prophecies made of Jesus in the Old Testament fulfilled in His first coming. But there are over 1500 prophecies to be fulfilled at His Second Coming. 319 New Testament verses- one out of every 25, looks at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

The lost world sees only the first coming. They make a sort of a mock celebration out of the first coming- as they marry it with their paganism and materialism as they have done in contemporary society. So the world simply tolerates the first coming of Jesus- because as a baby- Jesus doesn't seem to threaten their lives; He makes no demands on them and speaks no offending words.

But they need to understand that that is not the last time they will see Jesus. The next time He comes- the whole world that is lost and unsaved will see Him and what they see- they will not like at all. The Second Coming will not be a "Silent Night" that is "tender and mild". It won't be meek and lowly; it won't be gentle and loving.

The very first mention of the Second Coming of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke comes from the Lips of Jesus Himself- right here in verse 26:

"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and *the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.*"

And so here for the very first time in Luke's Gospel- right out of the Mouth of Jesus Himself- we hear that He is coming back and the next time He comes to this earth- it will not be in humility- it will be in Glory that's going to be on public universal display. Now although this is the first mention of it in Luke's Gospel- it's not the last. Jesus' Second Coming will also be mentioned in Chapters 12, 17, 18, and 21. Our Lord Himself introduces His return here and He confirms His return in a most powerful way.

But the question that comes to mind is even though Jesus said He was coming back one day in the future-

Why should we believe Him?

Wasn't Jesus just a Man? And even if He was a special Man Who could do miraculous things- some of the Old Testament prophets did miraculous things too. And the Apostles did miraculous things too. So why should we believe that Jesus is the Sovereign God of the universe and the One Who will come back to set up the eternal Kingdom of God

in this world and establish His reign forever and ever? Why should we believe Him about that?

It certainly hasn't happened yet- as the Apostle Peter records in **2Peter 3:3&4:**

3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts,

4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

Jesus came and He died and He rose again- but over two thousand years have gone by- and He hasn't come back yet. So what is there in His Words that would make us believe that He was telling us the Truth? That's a very important question. God dealt with that in the Old Testament- why should you believe when a human prophet gives a prophecy that is in the far future? So when a lot of time passes and generations come and go and live and die and disappear and it doesn't come to pass- why then should we believe that one day it will?

And that question could have been asked of the Prophets in the Old Testament- who prophesied about God's Kingdom that will be set up when Jesus' returns- thousands of years before Jesus was even born. So why should the Jews who lived back then believe when the OT Prophets said that a Kingdom was coming? Why should they believe about the coming of Divine Judgment- when God is going to send back the great Judge- the Messiah- Who will judge sinners and condemn them- why should anyone believe those future prophecies? How does anyone know for sure that those prophets spoke the Truth? Why should we trust them?

Well, thanks be to God that He had a way to deal with that issue. And Dr. Luke knew about it and he put it in this Passage that is before us today. Now as you read the Old Testament- you will notice that not only did the true Prophets utter prophecies about the *far* future- they also uttered prophecies about the *near* future as well. So as you read through the prophecies- whether you're going all the way back to Elijah and Elisha, or whether you're reading the prophets of Daniel and Ezekiel and Isaiah, or some of the minor prophets- you will find that there is a pattern that occurs with true prophets- and it is this:

Old Testament Prophets prophesy about the future judgment of God and the future coming of the great Kingdom that will occur at the end of Man's day- but they also uttered prophecies that were going to come to pass during the lifetime of the people who are hearing them.

And the reason the OT Prophets made those prophecies that are going to come to pass in the time of those people's lives- was so that when they come to pass- they would know that these men spoke the Truth- so that their future prophecies would have credibility.

The near prophecies that came to pass in the life time of the people who actually heard them brought credibility to the prophecies that would occur far down the road in the future. And that's how they proved to be true prophets.

Now if a prophet prophesied something that did *not* come to pass- what was done to that person? He was condemned to death for several reasons:

- ✓ He had taken the Lord's Name in vain
- ✓ He brought disrespect and dishonor to the Lord and His Work
- ✓ He had committed blasphemy
- ✓ He brought doubt to everything else the Lord spoke

And this is the largest aspect of the modern Church that needs to be held into account. There are people in the modern Church who speak all the time "In the name of the Lord" and they forge God's Name to what they just said and yet when that thing doesn't come to pass- there is no downside to it. There is no putting to death of the one who prophesied presumptuously; there is no dishonor brought to that person; there is no lack of people following him or her and he or she can go right on and use the Lord's Name in vain again and again and say that God said something else that God clearly did not say and become wealthy of the backs of slow minded and gullible people.

There is even an outfit down in Florida that began teaching in the 1980's that the surety of a prophecy was not part of what made it credible. In other words- a prophecy could still be of God and still *not* come to pass. And all this did, dear friends, is bring about the most confused generation of Church people that the world has ever seen. People spend their entire lives now- learning how to give "personal

prophecies” and learning how to interpret dreams and learning how to supposedly hear from God and yet they are almost entirely ignorant of what the Bible actually says. And this is getting so bad that now the infallible Word of the living God itself is brought into doubt and question and is scrutinized to see if it matches up with somebody’s personal experience.

But Almighty God did not allow for people to be running around fast and loose and saying things were going to happen when they weren't going to happen because they weren't speaking for God. There were very harsh and stiff penalties put into the Bible for what goes on in the modern Church every day- so as to preserve the dignity and reliability and trustworthiness and credibility of what God had actually spoken.

So a true prophet could be verified as a true prophet for a *future* prophecy- if he first could be verified as a true prophet about a *near* prophecy. So it was very typical for OT prophets to prophesy something that would come to pass very soon. And by doing that- the people could see that what these men said was absolutely true and they could have confidence about the things that were going to come to pass down the road.

And on the basis of the verification of the near prophecy- the people knew that these men were true prophets and they could trust him for the future prophecy.

And right here in this passage- Dr. Luke tells us that Jesus follows that very same OT pattern. He first said in verse 26, *"Look, I am telling you something that's going to happen when you're gone. I'm telling you there's going to be a Second Coming in glory."* But nobody who was there that day when He spoke those words would be alive on this earth when that happened. So Jesus then brought Divine Credibility about the future when He said this in verse 27:

But I say to you truthfully, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."

So in order to prove that they could trust Jesus for the future- He told them about something that they would see before they die- and that allowed them to know that what He says about the future is also true. So Jesus told them that some of them will see a glimpse of His

Second Coming Glory before they die. He was going to take them behind the scenes and before some of these men die- Jesus promises them right here in Verse 27 that they are going to see the reality of the Kingdom of God. Jesus was going to put on a preview of the Second Coming- a private preview to some of the Apostles- so that they will know that He is trustworthy and reliable about what He says about the future.

Now keep in mind- this is not for everybody- it's only for *some* of those believers standing there that day who were literally hearing Jesus speak those Words. And in verse 28- we find out just how many. Three men. Peter, James and John.

Now the phrase, "**who shall not taste death**" was a kind of a Hebraism- a kind of a Jewish colloquial expression that the Jews used back in the 1st Century. He could have simply said, "*You will not die until you see*" but He used that very Jewish expression, "*some who shall not taste death*" because the Jews expressed death that way as if it was the bitterest cup that anybody could ever drink. And by the way, that expression "**tasting death**" is also found in the parallel account of this passage in **Matthew 16:28** and the other parallel account in **Mark 9:1**.

So it was a very common way back then that the Jews expressed dying as "the bitter cup of sorrow"- the worst taste of all. And so we need to remember that the average Jew back in the 1st Century- before the NT was finished- didn't understand Heaven and Hell the way we do now. Because God revealed much more about Heaven and Hell and even Salvation itself in the New Testament than He did in the Old. So to the Jew of that day- death was a real bad deal and a very bitter cup. So Jesus says here that some of these men standing right there are not going to physically die until they see Him coming in His Kingdom.

Now first of all- everybody dies- and these men knew all about Original Sin and they knew what Moses had written about how that all men will physically die because of the Fall of Adam in the Garden and they had also lived long enough to have personally known godly and holy people who had died and yet Jesus says here that some of them were *not* going to die- until they saw God's Glory in the Kingdom.

So that means that this statement about them seeing the Glory of God's Kingdom before they die has to come to pass rather quickly- in just a few short years- at the most- or Jesus would have been found out to be a liar.

Now John Mark adds to what Jesus said here. Mark and Matthew both describe the same event- but Mark adds that it's going to come "with power" and Matthew adds that "the Son of Man is going to come". So what Jesus is saying here in verse 27 is that some of these men are going to see the Kingdom and its Power and its Glory and they will see the coming of the Son of Man- all before they die. They are going to get previews of the coming of the Son of Man in His Kingdom with Power and great Glory before the Divine Curse on their flesh will take their lives.

So this is really a very staggering Promise- showing once again that Jesus is God Almighty in human flesh- because He promises these men that some of them will not taste of death until they see this- and the only way this could happen is if Jesus had control over the time and hour of their deaths.

Now keep in mind that most of these men had been hoping for the Kingdom- all their lives. They had longed to see exactly what Jesus was now promising them that they would see. But their understanding of the Kingdom and how it was going to come was very vague and it was in bits and pieces because they didn't understand that Jesus would come to earth twice and so they didn't comprehend just how all of this was going to work out.

Most- if not all of the Apostles- still thought in terms of a natural physical Kingdom rather than a spiritual one. Most of them still linked the destruction of the Roman Army and the nation of Israel coming once again under the leadership of a warrior King in the mold of King David- who would vanquish all of the Jew's enemies and restore the peace and prosperity that they enjoyed 1,000 years earlier with the Kingdom of God. And to add insult to injury- back in verse 22- Jesus had just told them a very strange thing when He said:

The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day."

Now I really don't think that they understood the "rise from the dead" part- but I'm confident they heard the "killed" part. So this had to be very perplexing to them. How was Jesus going to accomplish all of those prophecies by dying? How was His Death going to bring about the Kingdom? We see this so clearly in our day- but only because we have

the benefit on having the entire NT completed and knowing something about what it says. But they didn't know what was going to be revealed to them later on by God the Holy Spirit and what they would write down for us and so in their minds- Jesus dying wasn't the way the Plan was supposed to go in their minds at all. And I would like for you to please turn with me and read **Mark 8:31-33:**

31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

32 And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.

33 But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

Now Dr. Luke didn't record this particular exchange with Peter at this point in His Gospel account- but the Apostle later on had commissioned John Mark to write this exchange down and it illustrates the great confusion in the minds of the Apostles about how all of this was going to come about.

But if you're tempted to look down your nose at them- don't- because we wouldn't have done any better a job than they did. You see- it is very easy to understand prophecy- after the fact. No problem at all to piece together the sequence of events- after you know how God has worked it all out. But it is very difficult to understand prophecy *before* it happens.

And so we see exchanges like this with Peter today and we can see perfectly well how that Jesus tells them right here exactly what is going to happen and so how in the world could they not have seen it? But then we are hit with prophecies in the both the Old and the New Testaments about far future events- and how do we handle it? We develop 13,000 different interpretations and write 238,000 books about how this is all going to work out. So we are no different than they were about things that haven't yet happened.

So when Jesus said that He was going to be killed- Peter said to Him, "*Lord, this can't happen- it's not going to happen*" and Jesus said, "**Get behind Me, Satan,**" it *has* to happen. "*Look, Peter, I love you- but*

don't think for one second that you can alter the Plan of God. If you stop Me from the Cross- you accommodate Satan's purpose and not God's. I was born to die and if I don't die- nobody goes to Heaven."

We have to remember that it was satan who didn't want Jesus to die. Satan tempted Jesus with Him being accepted and loved and about Him eating and getting strong and healthy so that people would admire Him and satan wanted people to adore and worship Jesus- as long as Jesus would bow before him.

But we need to remember that God sent Jesus to earth to die and it pleased the Lord to bruise Jesus and Jesus loved His Father more than He loved life itself and so when God told Jesus to fast- satan tempted Him with eating. But Jesus would rather starve to death rather than disobey His Father's Will. And when God wanted Jesus to be rejected and scorned- satan tempted Jesus with acceptance and popularity. And when God wanted Jesus to humiliate Himself and become weak and pitiful- satan tempted Jesus with exercising His Divine Power to escape the torture.

Now the Apostles certainly didn't want Jesus to die. That wasn't their plan at all. They loved Jesus and they had Jesus and now they were expected to just allow their Master to be killed and taken from them? The Jews had been waiting for thousands of years for the Messiah to come and now that He is here- He's going to die? How could that possibly be God's Will? How could Jesus' dying ever bring about God's Plan?

And this is very similar to so many today in the modern Church- who say that they love Jesus and say that they want God's Will in their lives and who say they want God to humble them and they say they want God to bring about purity and holiness in their lives. And yet when tragedy or sorrow or pain or misery knocks at their door- they quickly throw out everything they believe about the Absolute Sovereignty of God and they resort to "binding the devil" and "pleading the Blood" and "casting out the bad spirit" because they just cannot see how in the world this bad thing that has suddenly come upon them could possibly be God's Will because they are Blood washed and a child of the King and they have been taught that they are not supposed to suffer in this life like this and so they do everything that they can to get out of the very trial that God the Holy Spirit drew them into to bring about God's Will in their lives.

And then they come up with the most confusing and contradictory theology to try to explain why everything they have been taught and everything they believe isn't working the way it is supposed to. And it never seems to dawn on them that what they have been taught for the most part isn't even in the Bible at all and is the fiction of the mind of Man.

So this is where the Apostle were. They were completely confused about all of this. They thought that Jesus was going to set up the Kingdom on the earth- in Jerusalem- and that they themselves were going to be prominent in that Kingdom.

And then Jesus throws a monkey wrench in the gears by saying in verse 22 that He was going to die and then in verses 23- 26- He goes even further and says that if anyone would follow Him- they had to die too. They had to deny themselves and take up their crosses and follow Him. Jesus told them that if they planned on saving their lives- they first had to lose them.

And just about the time that one profound saying of Jesus was sinking into their minds- Jesus would say something else that just floored them. And so Peter couldn't stand it anymore and he spoke up and said what the rest of them were already thinking, *"No! No! You're not going to die; You can't die. You must not die. You just got here! We are just now beginning to understand what You are saying and now You're just going to leave us all again? I don't think so."*

Now this represents a real bad turn in their thinking. They thought they were ascending into some glorious path to the Kingdom where Jesus would institute a perfect welfare state where there will be perfect healing and perfect living and nobody gets sick and nobody is hungry and everybody is happy and even the animal's nature will change and everybody will live forever and now they find out that Jesus is going to be killed and they're expected to die too.

This is really not the way they had it worked out in their minds at all. And then Jesus topped it all off by saying,

"I'm going to come in glory,"

And right about at this point, somebody was thinking, *"Right- You just said You were going to die, and this whole thing is going to go south real fast. So how are we supposed to believe that this is not going to end*

really bad for everybody associated with You? I mean You lead us on and You promise all this stuff and now You're talking about being killed and we will all probably be killed rather quickly too and the whole 3 year gig that we have spent with You will be quickly forgotten. You have stirred up all the religious leaders and now You're going to go back where You came from and leave us all here alone and they are going to just slaughter us and yet You have the audacity to start talking about a glorious future? How can we trust You about a glorious future Kingdom when You just said all this bad stuff is going to happen very soon?"

I mean when you read about what David and Isaiah wrote about the Kingdom of God and then you realize at this point as Jesus is speaking to these men- that between 600 and 1,000 years has already gone by since those men wrote those things and yet as of that day- nothing has happened yet. And Jesus is the closest thing that has ever been to all these things being fulfilled and yet now Jesus is talking about Himself being killed. This had to be terribly confusing to these men. So how do these men know that the Lord is really right when He says He's coming in glory? What can Jesus do or say right now to alleviate their fears and remove their confusion and give them confidence to trust Him about what He says about the future? Look again at **Luke 9:27**:

But I say to you truthfully, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."

So right here- Jesus says, *"I'm going to prove to you that I'm reliable about the future because I'm going to give you a present day prophecy. Some of you- three of you- namely Peter, James and John- are going to see the Power and the Glory of My Coming in a preview of the Kingdom of God before you die."* That's a pretty astounding Promise. And a Promise that only God Himself could guarantee. And if God is willing- we will get into more of this next week.

Let's pray