

Greetings from God the Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and from the Holy Spirit. Amen

Not Just for Manmade Booths – Luke 9:28-36

***Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him(Jesus) Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah,***

Today we glimpse at the kingdom of God and the Glory of our Lord Jesus – that they are and will be always ... forever! Luke is using the eighth day to point us to the fact that this is an event that points to eternity. The kingdom of God is forever. Jesus goes up the mountain to pray. While Jesus is praying, ***his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah.*** Jesus changes His appearance. Jesus' hidden Glory is being partly revealed. Jesus is talking to Moses and Elijah. Moses representing the Law; Elijah representing the prophets of the Old Testament. And Jesus is standing in the center. Jesus is the one who fulfills the Law completely

and perfectly and Who fulfills all the prophecies. The scriptures before the Transfiguration speak of Peter confessing that Jesus is the “The Christ of God.” Jesus is the promised Messiah, Son of God and Son of Man.

***And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents(booths), one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”— not knowing what he said.***

Peter, John and James woke up from their sleep and saw Jesus in Glory. Peter, being Peter, he must say something. Peter seeing Jesus’ Glory, he must have thought that the kingdom had been restored; that this is the time they had been waiting for. Peter wanted to mark the occasion just as the Israelites had built booths to remember the journey in the wilderness in which God delivered them from slavery. Peter was saying, “let us stay here to rejoice in this place where everything is great and perfect and we can just stay here.” It is the feeling like when you are about to leave from a

perfect vacation spot and you really do not want to leave, thinking “This is great! I do not want to go back to the normal day with all the struggles, concerns and work of the day.” Peter is telling Jesus, “We are having this mountain top experience with You, it is good!” And Peter is wrapped up in the moment rather than the purpose for which Jesus has come. Peter wants to contain this joy and glory and all that ‘Jesus is’ in a man-made booth.

We like Peter want to put God in a box and save this moment. But that it is not the way to look at things. When Jesus is revealing His glory, He speaks of the main purpose of His coming to earth. With Moses and Elijah, Jesus speaks of “His departure,” “His exodus” –...pointing forward to Jesus’ “exodus” by way of the cross. By His cross Jesus has delivered you and me and all mankind from slavery of sin. THIS IS THE REASON JESUS CAME: to die on the cross, to offer you forgiveness of sins, to be your sacrifice, to take on Himself the punishment that you deserve. He offers it to you, to all, freely and has given it to you in your baptism, through faith and by grace. It does not depend on you, or your feelings, what you will or will not do; God has done this **for** you. God gives you forgiveness of sins,

eternal life freely. He has done everything that is needed for Salvation for you, for all.

Jesus speaks of his death, just a few verses previously. Jesus speaks again about his death in a few verses after the Transfiguration. God the Father comes in the cloud and tells Peter, John and James, ***“This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!”*** Hear what Jesus is telling you about His purpose of coming! The purpose is not to stay on top of this mountain, HEAR what my Son is telling, IT IS IMPORTANT!

The Message is important, it is the focal point, it has the power to save. Jesus does not stay on the mountain, Jesus goes down from the mountain and into the valleys. The valleys where there is sin, suffering, pain, injustice, and death. Jesus went down to conquer sin for you, for all, on the cross. Jesus meets you where you are this day and every day; He meets you and upholds you whatever you are going through. Jesus touches you, as His child today. Jesus wants a personal relationship with you. Jesus loves you! God has made you His hands and voice for wherever you are at this time and at this place. This is the message we are not to keep in the booths, to ourselves. For because God has made you His own in Christ, He

will bring you from the valley of this life of struggle with sin and pain to the mountain top, to heaven itself, to be with Him forever.

And may the peace of God, which is beyond all human comprehension, keep your hearts and minds through your faith in Christ Jesus. Amen