

Hidden Glory

Mark 9:1-8

1 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

2 And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them.

3 And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them.

4 And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus.

5 And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

6 For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid.

7 And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

8 And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves.

I. Introduction

1. On this day in the lives of Peter, James, and John, they were having what started out as a pretty ordinary day in their walk with Jesus, experiencing some pretty ordinary events.

2. But Jesus gave that puzzling statement that some of them would see the kingdom of God come with power.

3. And then following that puzzling statement, seemingly out of nowhere, they were suddenly in the midst of heavenly kingdom glory with Jesus shining with the power of the brightest radiant light they had ever seen.

4. They heard heavenly voices, saw indescribable things, and felt sensations that left them shocked, not believing their senses, and not knowing what to do or say.

5. But what was even more surprising about this unexpected, glorious, mountain top experience, was that after it was all over, Jesus told them to keep quiet about what they had seen:

*Mark 9:9 And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should **tell no man** what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead.*

6. Hidden heavenly glory suddenly opened up right before them, and when it was all over, Jesus said, “Keep this hidden—for now.”

7. Glory was there it was to remain hidden.

8. I am convinced that right where you live, in the midst of your daily humdrum routines, that Jesus wants to bring us beyond normal and into His glory. Even when it remains hidden.

9. So I want to speak with you tonight on this subject: Hidden Glory.

II. The timing is not right

A. A miraculous non-miracle

1. Have you ever prayed for a miracle that did not come to pass in the way you asked?

2. Something I am still learning is that God sometimes does us a favor by not giving us what we ask for.

3. And with that non-miracle event, what I believe arrived, was hidden glory.
 4. God was working something great, but He just didn't reveal to you what He was doing behind the scenes—in hiding.
 5. The timing just wasn't right for you to know or see it.
- B. Tell no man
1. Let's look at some scriptures that reveal what I'm talking about, what we may call, silent miracles.
 2. For instance, after Jesus healed a leper:
*Matt 8:4 And Jesus saith unto him, **See thou tell no man**; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.*
 3. And after Jesus healed two blind men:
*Matt 9:30 And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, **See that no man know it.***
 4. And after healing several people in a crowd:
Matt 12:15-16
15 But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all;
*16 And charged them that **they should not make him known.***
 5. And following the transfiguration that we will be talking about tonight:
*Matt 17:9 And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, **Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.***
 6. These glorious experiences were absolutely happening, yet in a puzzling way, Jesus wanted them to remain hidden, as Hidden Glory.
- C. The hour has not yet come
1. I just wonder how many glorious heavenly encounters are happening all around us in the kingdom realm that we have no idea are occurring.
 2. Jesus once said:
*John 2:4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? **mine hour is not yet come.***
 3. For Jesus, it seemed that there is a better hour for some things. Some things are more important than the miracles we want to see.
 4. Maybe the timing is not right. Maybe there are some lessons He wants us to learn from the situation.
 5. Maybe the thing we want to see stopped, is actually a thing that God designed for the purpose of bringing us closer to Him.
 6. There might even be hidden glory going on in that thing that will be revealed later.
 7. Oh, what might we see if we could have the vision to look into the realm where hidden glory exists!
- III. The transfiguration
- A. A sleepy prayer meeting
1. But let us return to the story of the transfiguration.
 2. Jesus took three of His disciples, Peter, James, and John, and went to a high mountain to pray.

Luke 9:28 And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.

3. The prayer meeting on this day apparently started in an ordinary way, like many others they had experienced with Jesus.
4. And I see a hidden warning in this story: **[slide] that it is possible for prayer to become such an empty ritual to us, that we can miss out on the miraculous encounter God intends for it.**
5. For instance, this dramatic scene of the transfiguration that we read about earlier, began as “just a prayer meeting,” and note what Peter, James, and John, were doing during this “just a prayer meeting:”
Luke 9:32 But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.
6. Prayer was a regular habit with Jesus, and as it is with habits, they can become sleepy routine-ness for folks like Peter, James, and John, or even Anthony.
7. Prayer can seem to be more ritual than relational, but don’t stop praying, just keep pressing.

B. The prayer routine

1. Let us take a brief overview of why the disciples might have been sleeping during prayer meeting. You see, Jesus had plenty of long prayer meetings:
Mark 1:35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.
2. *Mark 6:46 And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.*
3. *Mark 14:32 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.*
4. *Matt 14:23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.*
5. *Luke 5:16 And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.*
6. *Luke 6:12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.*
7. Jesus demonstrated that prayer was a high priority by His consistent, disciplined, regular habit.
8. But for His followers, at least some of those prayer meetings came and went without becoming an exciting encounter with a dramatic outcome.
9. As important as prayer is, it can sometimes be reduced to a sleepy routine, not only in the encounter of Jesus’ transfiguration, but the night Jesus was arrested:
Matt 26:40 And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?
Matt 26:43 And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.
10. What I see in this is a revelation of the importance of a prayer discipline—and yes, we can call it a prayer routine.
11. Jesus was always praying, and at least on some occasions, He invited His disciples to join Him.
12. For Jesus, prayer was what it was all about. But for the disciples who seemingly had grown used to Jesus’ long prayer meetings, they obviously slept through some of them.

C. Hearing His voice

1. This makes me consider my spiritual condition—my sensitivity to the invisible spirit realm of the kingdom of heaven that is all around us.
2. I just wonder, in how many of my routine prayer meetings was Jesus was ready to take me through an open door in heaven?
3. What if it happens during your next routine prayer meeting, that a window of heaven was to open up, and you beheld scenes of indescribable glory and received divine revelations from the Lord?
4. Like when Paul had that encounter when he was “caught up to the third heaven.”
*2 Cor 12:4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and **heard unspeakable words**, which it is not lawful for a man to utter [too sacred to be put into words NET].*
5. Such encounters with Jesus are indescribable in human terms.
6. When we try to describe such experiences to others, and we fumble with the right descriptive words, and end with, “Well, you just had to be there.”
7. I believe Jesus wants to be there with us to experience indescribable glory—or hidden glory.
8. Isn't it worth it to keep on praying? Isn't it worth it to have a prayer discipline—a prayer routine and just keep showing up?
9. Yes, perhaps some of them will be sleepy events, but if my spiritual sensitivity will grow, I just may find more of those events drawing me deeper into Jesus' presence to where I walk away changed forever.

D. What Peter saw

1. Let's take a look at how this event changed even the sleepy Peter.
2. Hidden from them until this moment, but now suddenly appearing before their faces, was the translucent, shining, glowing, radiant, Jesus.
Mark 9:2-3
2 And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them.
3 And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them.
3. The English word for transfigured comes from the Greek word, met-a-mor-fo-o, or a metamorphosis.
4. Jesus' appearance was transformed, glorified with radiant, heavenly glory.
5. Not knowing what to do, Peter interrupted that holy moment:
Mark 9:5-6
5 And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.
6 For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid.
6. Sometimes it is better to say nothing when you don't know what to say, because apparently Peter interrupted a divine moment.
7. But the voice of God from heaven rose far above Peter's feeble words:
Mark 9:7 And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.
8. Just remember, this glorious event had started out as “just a prayer meeting,” but then suddenly, Hidden Glory was revealed all around them.
9. I wonder how many other prayer meetings the disciples had slept through that also included encounters of glory.

10. I wonder how many sleepy prayer meetings of mine end in the mundane rather than the glorious.
- E. Forever changed
1. There are times when the hidden glory becomes experienced glory that leaves us forever changed.
 2. You see, although Peter approached the prayer meeting with Jesus that day as “just a prayer meeting,” and although he slept through the first part of it, and although he was talking at a holy moment when he should have been silent, still, he was changed by this encounter with the glory.
 3. And that should give folks like you and me some hope, because we don’t always approach spiritual things with the right frame of mind.
 4. But notice in this next passage, how Peter, writing 30 years after this event, about four years before he was killed, was still very much impacted by that event on the holy mountain 30 years earlier.
2 Peter 1:14-19
14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.
*15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things **always in remembrance.***
5. Not only was this event a vivid memory to him 30 years later, he wanted to make certain it was a memory to others following his death:
*16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables [clever fictional tales], when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were **eyewitnesses of his majesty.***
*17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when **there came such a voice** to him from the excellent glory, *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*
*18 And this voice which came from heaven **we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.***
*19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto **a light that shineth in a dark place**, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:**
6. Peter was changed by that event.
- F. Keep up the daily routine
1. If you are hearing voices from another world, that may be evidence that some of that hidden glory of the Day Star is rising in your heart.
 2. Know this--the veil of our human existence that keeps the glory hidden behind it, can be slightly pulled back, so that suddenly, into this world of the natural, the normal, and the mundane, there is a light that shines in a dark place.
 3. That is when the hidden glory becomes the revealed glory.
 4. Keep up with those routines that are part of a disciplined walk with God, even though they sometimes feel a little monotonous.
 5. Just keep giving the Lord the material He can work the miraculous with.
 6. God will change an **everyday encounter**, like a prayer meeting, into a miraculous transfiguration at His appointed time.

7. But there must be those daily, **everyday encounters** where you give Him your loaves and fish. Don't show up empty; give Him your all to work with.

IV. Conclusion

1. In closing, I want you to remember this: hidden glory does not always remain hidden, but bursts forth and erupts into joy.
*1 Peter 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, **when his glory shall be revealed**, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.*
2. There are times when that glory transfigures the scene into a miraculous encounter that is life-changing and long remembered.
3. Every day we live, we are to live the day unto the Lord like it is the day the Lord returns.
4. As you consider the parable of the 10 virgins, I want to ask you this question, "When should we trim our lamps, and when should we refill our oil vessels?"
5. Should we wait until the day the bridegroom returns? No. Be ready every day. For no man knows the day or the hour when the Son of Man shall return.
6. Be ye ready, for in an hour when ye think not, the Son of Man shall be revealed in glory, coming with His angels.
7. And the dead in Christ shall be raised gloriously, and we who are alive shall be changed gloriously.
8. Consider this final verse with me. You even have hidden Glory living inside of you in the power of the Holy Ghost.
*Rom 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the **glory which shall be revealed** in us.*
9. You don't always see the effects of God living inside of you, and you sometimes grow used to that, but on that day, that hidden Glory will be revealed in you and it will transform your body and raise you to meet the Lord in the clouds and from thereafter, ever be with the Lord.