

# Jesus Reveals His Glory

Key Verse:

**“We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eye witnesses of His Majesty.”**

2 Peter 1:16

Extra: What is the most significant part of this story for you?

Level 5 lesson 13

**Read Luke 9:28-36**

**Further: Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8**

Our Scripture reading today contains a truly wonderful story about the Lord Jesus Christ; make sure you read it! (we hope you always do this). It is the story of the ‘Transfiguration’ of our Lord, when He gave three of His disciples an amazing glimpse of His heavenly glory and majesty.

Jesus had recently told his disciples that He was going to suffer, die and rise again. He knew they would be sad and discouraged. The sight of His incredible majesty and glory would reassure them that He truly *was* God and would indeed reign and be glorified.

**THE GLORIOUS EVENT**

The Mount on which this amazing event took place was probably Mount Hermon, a mountain over 2,700m high, up in the north of Israel. Three disciples, Peter, James and John were privileged to witness the Lord’s glory.

While the Lord was praying and the disciples were tired from climbing up the mountain, a change came over the Lord’s appearance. His face, according to Matthew’s Gospel, began shining like the sun, and his clothes became white and radiant.

Suddenly two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glory and talked with Jesus! Moses, you may remember, had died about 1500 years before; God Himself buried his body in a secret place. Elijah the prophet had been taken to heaven about 900 years before without dying, so it is clear that the two men were brought from God’s very presence to appear on the mountain with Jesus.

Though we’re not told exactly what they were saying, it concerned Jesus’ approaching death at Jerusalem. We do know that the Lord knew everything that lay before Him, and this must have weighed heavily on His mind. He could not talk freely to His disciples about this because they did not understand. Perhaps these two great men were sent to encourage Him to continue in obedience to His Father’s will. Whatever the reason, we can imagine the inspirational effect of this incredible sight on the disciples!

**A BIG MISTAKE**

Prior to this, they had only seen the Lord in His

humility, walking as a man amongst men, a servant. Now they saw Him in majesty and glory as Israel’s Messiah or King.

Just as Moses and Elijah were departing and the wonderful scene was drawing to a close, Peter abruptly made a suggestion. “Master,” He said to Jesus, “It is good for us to be here: let’s make three altars; one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” He didn’t want this glorious scene to end. He didn’t realize that Jesus must soon leave the mountain-top and go to the Cross.

Peter of course, meant well, but in his enthusiasm he made a big mistake. He put the Lord on a level with Moses and Elijah. Jesus stands alone; unique, without equal. There is none next to Him. No sooner had Peter made his enthusiastic suggestion than the voice of the Father was saying, “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear HIM!”

God singled out His Son as the One who alone is to be honoured. Great as Moses and Elijah were – they were only human; Jesus was and is the SON OF GOD! At this point, the great scene closed; the glory departed, Moses and Elijah disappeared and the disciples saw “...no-one except Jesus.” (Matt 17:8)

**GREAT EVIDENCE**

We know that this awesome ‘Transfiguration’ experience made a great impression on Peter. Later in his life as he wrote to encourage the Christians who were suffering for their faith, he used it as compelling evidence for the reality of Christ’s deity and coming kingdom. [Key verse]

Many preachers would teach lies and nonsense today in an effort to gain followers and make money. Peter could assure his writers that what he was writing was the truth, based on his eye-witness evidence.

We can take heart from his words too. Our faith is not based on fairy-tale but reality! Christ is the Messiah, the son of God and we look forward to His return, to take all who have acknowledged Him as Lord and Saviour to be with Him in Heaven forever. Will you be there on that happy and glorious day? You can be, if you will put your faith in Christ. Do you ‘hear Him’ calling you today?

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

1. What did our Lord look like when He was “transfigured”?	.....
2. What subject did Jesus and Moses and Elijah speak about?	.....
3. What do you think of Peter’s suggestion?	.....
4. What does this event show compelling evidence for?	.....
5. What did God the Father say about his Son?	.....

My Name is ..... Age .....

# A Wonderful Deliverance

Key Verse:

**“Everything is possible for him who believes.”**

Mark 9:23

Level 5 lesson 14

Extra: What do you think of the Father's answer in verse 24?

## Read Mark 9:14-29

Further: Matthew 17:14-18; Luke 9:37-43

### TERRIBLE TROUBLE

When our Lord went up to the mountain top with Peter, James and John, He left the other nine disciples below. As He and the other three disciples returned from that wonderful experience, the first thing they encountered was a great crowd of excited people surrounding these nine disciples. Some scribes were questioning them – and seemed to be getting the best of the argument.

As Jesus approached the group, they recognized Him and surged around Him, eagerly waiting to hear what He would say. The Lord asked the Scribes what the argument was about, and the man who seemed to be at the centre of things, stepped forward to explain... “I brought my son to You to be healed,” then man began. “He is possessed by an evil spirit, which treats him terribly. It sends him mad at times, making him unable to speak, throwing him down, foaming at the mouth and grinding his teeth.” The worried father finished by saying, “I asked Your disciples to drive the evil spirit out but they couldn’t”.

This looked bad, because you will remember that Jesus them the power to cast out demons, and yet it seemed they couldn’t do it. The scribes saw an opportunity to publicly discredit not only the disciples, but Jesus too. Perhaps this would show Jesus, whom they hated, to be the ‘powerless fake’ they thought He was! However this was NOT to be!

### FAITH REQUIRED:

Our Lord listened quietly to the man’s story. Then He revealed some of the frustration he often must have felt as He looked at the hearts of those gathered around Him, “Oh faithless generation!” He said. “Bring him (the boy) to Me.” The poor boy was brought forward and immediately the evil spirit threw him down on the ground, foaming at the mouth. Distraught, the father cried, “If you can do anything take pity on us, and help us!” Jesus turned the question back to the man. “If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes.” There was no question that the Lord could do something; only the man’s faith was in question. He recognized this, humbling begging Jesus with tears, “Lord I do believe;

### FAITH REWARDED

Jesus then rebuked the evil spirit sternly, “You deaf and dumb spirit; I command you to come out of him and never enter him again!” The evil spirit obeyed immediately, but not before viciously attacking the boy again, and leaving him as though dead. Tenderly, Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, completely delivered from the control of the evil spirit; restored to his right mind and no doubt rejoicing!

Here, we can see so beautifully the contrast between the work of Satan and that of Christ. Satan’s evil spirit had ‘thrown this poor boy down’ in constant bondage and suffering, ruining his life from a young age. Since ‘throwing’ our first parents down from innocence to sinfulness in the Garden of Eden, Satan has been throwing and keeping men and women down in misery and sin ever since. Jesus, in contrast, freed him from his demonic power and lifted him up, restored and joyful.

The disciples had failed to help him, but not Jesus! What a wonderful display of His authority and power over the forces of evil, to the unbelieving Scribes! In the same way today, Jesus our Lord lifts people up; out of sin into holiness, righteousness and happiness. I hope you all know His power in this way.

### A VALUABLE LESSON

Of Course, the disciples were puzzled by their apparent failure and in v28 we read how they came to the Lord asking Him, “Why couldn’t we cast him out?” Jesus replied, “This kind [of evil spirit] can come out only by prayer and fasting.”

It was obviously a particularly difficult type of spirit to deal with; much prayer and dependence on the Lord was required. However, even this kind of spirit presented no difficulty to the Lord; HE never met with failure at any time! He is the same today. “The Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes.” (Romans 1:16) Praise God for that!

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. What was the big commotion all about?	.....
2. What did the man say in answer to our Lord’s words found in the Key Verse?	.....
3. What is the contrast between the work of the Lord and the work of Satan?	.....
4. How does Jesus ‘Lift up’ people?	.....
5. Why did the disciples fail to cast out the demon?	.....

# Lessons by the Way

Key Verse:

**“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time**

1 Peter 5:6

Extra: How could you be more humble and gracious?

Level 5 lesson 15

## Read Luke 9:44-62

Further: Matt 17:22-23; Mark 9:30-32

### TRUE GREATNESS

Following the events of the previous two lessons, Jesus and the disciples made their way toward Jerusalem, via Capernaum. As they went, Jesus again told them He was going to be delivered into the hands of wicked men to be crucified. However, it seems they didn’t understand what He meant and were afraid to ask about it. Had they grasped His meaning, what happened next might not have!

We read that, “an argument arose among them, which one of them should be the greatest.” While their Master was talking of going to the cross of Calvary – taking the lowest possible place – they were disputing which one of them should have the highest place in the Kingdom!

Later, when they arrived in Capernaum, Jesus asked them what they had been arguing about back on the road. Ashamed they all kept quiet. Gently, the Lord took a little child and placed him in front of them. Little children are generally loved and humble, and Jesus used this little child to teach them that they must get rid of any desire to be greatest.

They had to learn humility, like the little child before them, before they could even enter the Kingdom of Heaven. He taught them to be humble, to welcome and love in His name, even the supposedly insignificant people like “this little child.” “He who is least among you,” Jesus said, “shall be great!”

### TRUE SERVANTS

Next, Jesus taught them to be ‘big-hearted.’ John told the Lord that when they saw a man casting out devils in His name they forbade him, “because he is not one of us.” Jesus said, “Don’t stop him, for whoever us not against you is for you.”

We too, must not think that people cannot serve the Lord unless they are in *our* group! The Lord has His servants everywhere and we shall be glad wherever we see or hear of people preaching the Word of God.

### TRUE GRACE

Next, the Lord demonstrated His wonderful grace. Some Samaritans refused to let Jesus stay in their village; they realized He was a Jew, going to

Jerusalem. In misguided zeal, James and John, probably with the memory of Christ’s glorious majesty fresh in their minds, wanted to bring down fire from heaven to punish them!

Jesus rebuked them and simply went to another village. He had not come to destroy men – He could have done that from Heaven at any time! He had come in humility and grace, to save men. He was soon to humbly accept far worse insults and humiliation than that – even death on a cross! He wanted the disciples to understand that they had received grace and must learn to display it towards those who didn’t know the Saviour. We too, must never think less of those who don’t know Jesus; we need to pray for them, that God in grace would open their eyes to the wonder of His salvation, as He did ours.

### TRUE FOLLOWERS

A man came to the Lord and confidently stated, “Lord, I will follow You whenever You go!” Perhaps he thought he could get an important role in Jesus’ kingdom. This man’s faith needed a reality check! The Lord told him, “Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests – but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

The man’s faith evaporated and he quietly left. While he thought there was glory and position to be had, he was keen; but true followers must be prepared to follow through poverty too. Christ gave up His glory and position in Heaven for the most humble place; He had “nowhere to lay His head” in the very world His hands had made! He “became poor, that we might be rich” – but not necessarily in this life!

Next a man whom Jesus had invited to “follow Him” replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” However, the Lord told him, “Let the dead (the dead to God) bury the dead (the physically dead); you go and preach the Kingdom of God!” A third man said, “I will follow you, Lord, but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.” The Lord said, “No, if you look back you are not fit for the Kingdom of God.”

I believe both these men made the same mistake. They both wanted to do something else *first*. The Lord requires true followers to “Seek *first* the Kingdom of God and all these things will be given to you.” (Matt 6:33). It was a matter of priorities; had they done this, their human obligations would have been permitted.

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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|---|-------|
| 1. What did Jesus teach His disciples from the little child?                        | ..... |
| 2. How has the Lord spoken to you through this lesson?                              | ..... |
| 3. Why was it wrong for John and James to want to punish the Samaritans?            | ..... |
| 4. What was wrong with what the third man wanted to do before he followed the Lord? | ..... |
| 5. What must come ‘first’ with all who want to follow the Lord?                     | ..... |

# A Priest, a Levite, and a Samaritan

Key Verse:

**“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”**

1 Timothy 1:15

Level 5 lesson 16

Extra: How do you live an ‘external perspective’?

**Read Luke 10:25-37**

**Further James 2:14-26**

**AN IMPORTANT QUESTION**

One day, a lawyer asked Jesus a question which many people still ask. “Master,” he asked, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Like many, he wanted to DO something to obtain this great blessing. In reply, Jesus simply asked him a question, “What is written in the Law?” (the OT Law of Moses). The man answered quickly, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.”

**A STRAIGHT ANSWER**

“That’s right,” said the Lord, “You do that and you will live!”(v28.) The man was no doubt a bit shocked; perhaps he expected a list of ‘do’s and don’ts’ that he could ‘tick off’ as each one was completed. Instead, Jesus went to the heart of the question, reminding this clever lawyer that what he must do is love God with his whole being, fully, completely, continually and love his neighbor as himself.

It is the same today. Some people believe that if we want to ‘earn’ eternal life by doing good works, we must keep the law of God absolutely as written. And if we do that we will “inherit eternal life”.

Unfortunately for us, that is impossible; we would have to be perfect – and none of us are! We are all sinners. We cannot keep God’s perfect Law – only break it. The lawyer realized he was in a corner. He tried to wriggle out of it by asking, “And who is my neighbor?” perhaps hoping again that Jesus would give him a specific group of people. Then he could do his best to love them, claim to have kept the law and so have ‘earned’ eternal life.

Instead, Jesus told him the wonderful parable of the Good Samaritan in our Bible reading, to show him who his neighbor was – and his own need of salvation! The robbed and wounded man was near the priest and the Levite when they came his way. He was then their neighbor – but they both failed to act in a loving way. Both passed by and left him to die on the roadside. The Samaritan however, was a true

neighbor, helping the injured man in every possible way. His actions reflected his attitude of love for God and also for his neighbor.

**SERIOUS ISSUE**

The lawyer saw immediately that he too had no grounds for self-righteousness; he had failed to keep the Law and love his neighbor as the Good Samaritan had. He was in need of salvation. This is the deeper meaning in this wonderful parable. We can’t earn our salvation. The man who was robbed and wounded by the thieves is a picture of us, fallen Humanity.

When Adam and Eve sinned, it robbed us all of goodness and innocence and left us ‘dying,’ totally unable to help ourselves. The priest and the Levite who came along, but didn’t help, represent religion and the Law which cannot help or save us. They only condemn us. What we need is a personal Saviour.

Our Saviour, the Lord Jesus, is pictured in the Good Samaritan! Note the seven things he did:

- (1) Came to where the dying man was;
- (2) had compassion on him;
- (3) bound up his wounds;
- (4) poured in oil and wine;
- (5) put him on his own donkey;
- (6) brought him to an inn;
- (7) took care of him and provided for his needs.

**NECESSARY RESPONSE**

This is the great message of the Gospel! God loves us, and through Christ, He came to where we are in this world. He had compassion on us. He rescues us, He brings us to God now and He is returning to take us finally to Heaven. “God so loved the world that He gave His only beloved Son, that whosoever believes in Him, might not perish – but have everlasting life!” Through faith in Christ we may have eternal life as God’s free gift. We don’t earn it by DOING; we receive it by BELIEVING in Jesus Christ as our Saviour. Just as the wounded man had only to accept the Samaritan’s help, so it is for us. We can accept or reject God’s salvation – but we can never save ourselves! If the robbed man had refused the Samaritan’s help, he would have perished. So will we, if we are so foolish as to reject Jesus Christ and turn away from God’s love. How will you respond?

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

1. Why was the lawyer’s question so important?	.....
2. Why was he shocked at Jesus’ answer?	.....
3. Can we earn eternal life? Explain.	.....
4. How are we like the man who was ill-treated by the robbers?	.....
5. State how the good Samaritan is like the Saviour.	.....