
Epiphany:

- 1) A moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or very clear way.
- 2) A sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something.

Peter, James and John had an epiphany. Before them, on this mountain, Jesus was transfigured. At that moment they saw Jesus in a very clear way, his essential nature was manifested to them. They saw the glory of Jesus that was veiled by the incarnation (See Philippians 2:5-8. Or, as put by Charles Wesley: "Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity, pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel."). They saw the glory that he had before the world began (John 17:5). They saw the glory of the exalted Jesus, the glory that he would have in his return (Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 1:12-18).

Standing with him were Moses and Elijah. Their glory was not that of Jesus'. Oh, they had been great in Israel, yet each only pointed to the one who was to come. Moses was the model prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-18). Elijah was the forerunner of the one to come (Malachi 4:4-6). Their presence on the mountain that day revealed the continuity of God's plan from old to new. The coming of Jesus was no afterthought; it wasn't that the plan of God had failed. No, it was in the heart of God from before the earth began

that his son would come to redeem. Those who came before him, most notably Moses and Elijah, were neither substitutes nor rivals, but those who pointed to or made ready, in one way or another, the coming of the Son.

Ironically, Jesus' superiority is shown through Peter's reaction. He wanted to build "tents" (literally, tabernacles) for each of them. But no, Moses and Elijah were not staying. Only Jesus was staying, and he would not require a tabernacle, for he was the presence of God with us, Immanuel, the Son of God.

Jesus is the word of God. Note John 1; Hebrews 1:1-3. If the world as we know it continues for another 10,000 years there will be no other word given. God has spoken to us in these last days by his Son. He is God's final word. Thus, we must listen to him, we must hear him.

What did he say? What are we to hear?

He said: I am the bread of life; I am the light of the world; I am the door; I am the good shepherd; I am the resurrection and the life, if you believe in me, even though you die, you will live; I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me; I am the true vine.

He said: I came to seek and save that which was lost.

He said: Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I

am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. My yoke is easy and my burden is light.

He said: I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.

He said: If you want to be my disciple you must deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me.

He said: The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe in the gospel.

He said: The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many.

He said: This is my body given for you. This is my blood shed for many for the forgiveness of sin.

If we do not listen to him we will be lost, even worse, condemned because of our sin. If we listen, we will have life .

So:

If you don't think that God exists; that Jesus isn't Immanuel, God with us; doesn't love; isn't just ... you aren't listening to Jesus.

If you think that you're good enough to be accepted by God ... you aren't listening to Jesus.

If you think that you have more time; that remaining a part from God for even one more minute is better than trusting in Jesus and following him ... you aren't listening Jesus.

If you think that all would be well if only you had the right job, the right spouse, the right kids, the right parents, more money in the bank, a bigger house, better health, more friends, were more attractive ... you aren't listening to Jesus.

If you think all would be well if we only had the right government, the right representatives and senators, the right governor, the right president, the right judges ... you aren't listening to Jesus.

If you think that if only we would better share our resources so as to alleviate poverty and eliminate homeless then all would be well ... you aren't listening to Jesus.

If you think that if only we could advance to the place where we could eliminate cancer, heart disease and anything else that ails us that all would be well ... you aren't listening to Jesus.

If you think that all would be well if we could reduce sexual immorality in our culture ... you aren't listening to Jesus.

If you say: "My sins are too great to be forgiven" ... you aren't listening to Jesus.

If you say: "I'm not good enough to be accepted by God and therefore I have no hope" ... you aren't listening to Jesus.

If you say: "It's too late for me" ... you aren't listening to Jesus.

If you say: "My life hurts too much, there can be no purpose in this suffering" ... you aren't listening to Jesus.

But,

If you turn away from self-trust, from personal goodness-trust, from other people-trust, from world-trust, from government-trust, from economy-trust, from bank account-trust, from health-trust ... you are listening to Jesus.

If you know and believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the savior of sinners ... you are listening to Jesus.

If you know that you are a sinner and that he died for the likes of you ... you are listening to Jesus.

If you have said, "Have mercy upon me, a sinner" ... you are listening to Jesus.

If you have confessed your sins, repented and believed in the gospel ... you are listening to Jesus.

If it is your desire to seek him, to follow him, to know him, to live dependent upon his Spirit, to know his word, to pray and obey ... you are listening to Jesus.

And if you have heard Jesus, it is because you have had an epiphany, you have seen his glory, the glory of God in face of Jesus Christ. And this too, you know that a day will come when you will see him as he is and you will be like him ... and all will be well.

Epiphany

Mark 9:2-13



Bill Vogler

A Summary of the sermon preached

February 15, 2015

at

Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church

3312 Calvin Drive
Lawrence, KS 66049

(785) 843-2005