Transfiguration Exodus 34:29-35
February 27, 2022 96-712*-95-97
*CW-S – "Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain"

See the Glory!
I. See the glory of God's law.
II. See the greater glory of God's gospel.
III. See God's glory reflected in our lives.

Dear Christian friends,

Listening to **Luke's account** of the transfiguration you get the impression that Peter, James and John ALMOST MISSED it – **almost** slept right through it. AS Jesus was busy praying Peter, James and John ***"were weighed down with sleep."*** WHILE THEY SLEEP- ***"while (Jesus) was praying, the appearance of His face changed, and His clothing became dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appeared in glory and were talking with (Jesus)!"*** THANKFULLY Peter, James and John woke up. ***"They saw (Jesus') glory and the two men standing with Him."*** Imagine missing out on that sight!

Today we want to make sure we see ALL that there is to see. Here with Moses on **Mt. Sinai** – then with Moses on the **Mount of Transfiguration** – there's SO MUCH TO SEE - there is SO MUCH GLORY. Climbing these mountains **with Moses** SEE THE GLORY! 1)**See the glory** of God's law. 2)**See** the greater glory of **God's gospel** and 3)**see** God's glory reflected **in our lives**.

I. See the glory of God's law.

First we climb **Mt. Sinai** with Moses. It was HERE **at Mt. Sinai** that God had appeared to Moses in that ***"burning bush"*** and called Moses to **lead the Israelites** out of slavery in Egypt. About six weeks before this Moses had climbed Mt. Sinai and spent 40 days on top of the mountain receiving from God ***"the two stone tablets of the Testimony"*** written by God Himself. But when Moses came down Mt. Sinai THAT TIME he found the Israelites **worshiping** the golden calf. With a holy and righteous anger Moses ***"threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces."*** With the people chastised and called to repentance Moses went up Mt. Sinai a SECOND TIME to receive a new copy of **God's law** for the Israelites.

This time ***"When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, …Moses' …face was shining because he had been speaking with the LORD."*** Moses may not have known that his ***"face was shining"*** but Aaron and the Israelites SURE NOTICED it. ***"They were afraid to come close to (Moses)."*** Moses, however, called them to him and ***"he gave them all of the commands that the LORD had spoken to him on Mount Sinai."***

Here at Mt. Sinai **God wanted** to make an impression on the Israelites. God wanted them to see THE GLORY of **His law**. The FIRST TIME Moses had gone up Mt. Sinai ***"there was thunder and lightning. A thick cloud was over the mountain, and there was a very loud blast of a ram's horn. All the people …trembled. Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the Lord descended on it in fire. Its smoke went up like the smoke from a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled violently. Moses spoke, and God answered him in the thunder."*** This SECOND TIME there was none of that. Instead ***"Moses' face was shining."***

With all of this God wanted to impress on the Israelites THE GLORY of **His law**. God **wanted them** to clearly understand that this was HIS LAW – not some suggestions coming from Moses. **God wanted** the Israelites to clearly understand that **Moses** was NOT ASKING for their opinion or for suggestions for Moses to bring back to God. Moses was bringing them ***"all the COMMANDS that the LORD had spoken to him."*** God wanted the Israelites to see HIS GLORY and realize that He MEANT BUSINESS. God wanted to impress on them NOT TO MESS **with Him** or **His law**.

We can easily lament how **people** DON'T SEE **the glory** of God's law or TAKE GOD SERIOUSLY. But what about you and me – DO WE SEE that this is GOD'S law – HIS commands **for us** to obey? When God with that very first commandment SETS OUR PRIORITIES in life – that He comes first – that **our lives** are to center and revolve around Him – DO WE take that to heart or do we just BLOW IT OFF with a "**Get real**, God!"? When God with His other commandments says, "THIS IS HOW you **are to live** your family life – your work life – **social** life – sex life – **church** life – **prayer** life" – do WE UNDERSTAND that God expects us to LIVE EXACTLY **that way** – no exceptions allowed? WE TOO need to see **the glory** of GOD'S law and that God MEANS BUSINESS **with His law**.

"When Moses was finished speaking with (the people), he put a veil over his face." Paul brought this up in 2 Corinthians 3 – we heard part of in the epistle reading. Paul tells us that the veil kept the Israelites **from seeing** the GLORY FADE from Moses' face. Paul's point is that **the law** is not God's LAST WORD to us. The **law** is a very necessary word from God. **Like looking** in a mirror God's law shows us our sins and the mess we've made in **our relationship** with God. God's law convicts and condemns us to hell's eternal punishment. When we see THE GLORY of **God's law** and take it SERIOUSLY we are then ready to…

II. See the greater glory of God's gospel.

We climb down Mt. Sinai and now join Moses on the Mount of Transfiguration. WHAT A SIGHT we have here! Standing on the Mount of Transfiguration there can be NO DOUBTS **whatsoever** about exactly who Jesus is – the very Son of God Himself **in human flesh** and blood. With our eyes WE SEE Jesus in the glory that **is His** as true God from all eternity. With our ears we HEAR God the Father Himself say – **just as** He had also said at Jesus' baptism – ***"This is My Son, whom I love. Listen to Him!"***

It's no wonder Peter **wanted to stay** UP THERE. This sure beat anything the **world down below** could offer them. DOWN BELOW was pain – **suffering** – sickness – rejection – **sin** – death. But here on the mount – SUCH GLORY! So Peter pipes up, ***"Master, it is good for us to be here. Let's make three tents: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."*** Yet to stay up there would DEFEAT the very purpose of Jesus **coming** here. Jesus didn't come to AVOID a world of sin but to CARRY the sin of the world ALL THE WAY to **His cross**.

See – see and savor! – the GREATER GLORY of God's **gospel**! See Jesus leave behind **the glory** of this day. **See** Jesus climb down this mountain WITH A DETERMINATION to complete His mission as the **heaven-sent Savior** of the world. As Jesus came down the Mount of Transfiguration He knew exactly what was **coming His way**. He had already told His disciples that He ***"must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."*** SEE Jesus climb down this **glorious** mountain only to climb that hill called Calvary.

As we begin again our **Lenten journey** on Wednesday the SIGHTS will be so familiar – the **upper room** – the Garden of Gethsemane – the trials – the scourging – the crown of thorns – the cross – the BLOOD – the death. LOOK AND SEE the greater glory of God's **gospel** – the greater glory of God's LOVE – that God ***"did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all."*** SEE Jesus ***"who knew no sin"*** take our sins to the cross and there personally pay for them all with His own innocent sufferings and death. SEE the ***"beloved Son"*** of God ***"forsaken"*** so that we might be forgiven. See Jesus sacrifice His life as ***"the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."*** OH AND SEE that glorious sight of **Easter** morning – Jesus alive – risen triumphant from the dead!

SEE the greater glory – HEAR the greater message – of God's **gospel**. God's law demands a **whole lifetime** of perfect obedience – God's gospel proclaims that Jesus gives us the credit for His holy life. God's law demands the death of the guilty sinner – God's gospel proclaims God's FULL and FREE

FORGIVENESS of all our sins **because of Jesus'** death on the cross. God's law damns guilty sinners to hell's eternal punishment. God's gospel promises that all who ***"believe in Jesus shall not perish, but have everlasting life."*** God's gospel proclaims that TRUSTING IN Jesus we can be absolutely sure of God's **love** – His **forgiveness** – that we're going straight to heaven when we die. **Trusting in Jesus** we can confidently look forward to ONE DAY JOINING Moses and Elijah – Peter, James and John – and **all God' saints** – basking in our **Savior's glory** – NOT UP ON a mountain top for a little while – but in the eternal mansions of heaven.

SEE the greater glory of the **gospel** – and then…

III. See God's glory reflected in our lives.

Moses' ***"face was shining because he had been speaking with the LORD."*** Today we again have been **in the presence** of our God and heard Him speaking through His Word. As God comes to us THROUGH His glorious gospel in Word and sacraments we bask in **His glorious grace**. God comes to us WITH HIS **love** – His forgiveness – peace – power – promises. God sends us **on our way** with the call to ***"let (our) lights shine before men that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven."*** God wants us to live our daily lives so that OTHERS CAN SEE the difference that **Jesus makes** in our hearts and lives – so that they can see the joy – the comfort – **peace** – **hope** we have all because of Jesus.

But sometimes we DON'T SHINE **so bright**, do we? Sometimes WE LOSE SIGHT of **all those blessings** God gives us in Jesus. Sort of like Moses here the GLORY FADES from our hearts and lives. Then what? We need to go back to that **lowly manger** – to Jesus' **bloody cross** and **empty grave**. We need to get back IN the Word – to go back to that **font** – to come to our Lord's **table**. Doing that we will say as Peter did here, ***"Lord, it's good for us to be here."*** Doing that it will **be so good** to BASK AGAIN in our Savior's glorious grace and **forgiveness** – His glorious presence and **promises**.

UP on a mountain you can see a lot – you can see FAR OFF **in the distance**. UP on **Mt. Sinai** and the Mount of Transfiguration just look **all around**! There is so much glory for **us to see**. UP on the **Mount of Transfiguration** we can see all the way to heaven! Amen.

Hymn #95