

Mountaintop Experiences

Introduction

- Many great spiritual experiences in the Bible took place on mountains.
- Most of them were viewed by very few witnesses.
- On Mount Moriah, Abraham offered up his son Isaac.
- On Mount Sinai, amid lightning and thunder, Moses received the Ten Commandments

Great things start from the mountain top

- On Mount Carmel, Elijah called down the fire of God and devastated the religion and priests of Baal.
- The wilderness temptations included one from a mountaintop.
- Christ died on Mount Calvary.
- On the Mount of Ascension a cloud received him out of the onlookers' sight.



An experience on a mountaintop

- It was probably on Mount Hermon where Jesus was transfigured.
- He had set himself apart for some very important reasons.
- Jesus set out to seek the guidance of his heavenly Father.
- He was on the way to the cross, and he felt the need to pray

Jesus prayed in a crisis; so should we

- He never took a step without listening to the voice of God.
- When he had a problem, he did not proceed on human advice.
- He sought out a lonely place where he could have fellowship with God.
- It is possible today for us to have experiences with God that bring enlightenment and encouragement as we face great crises

Jesus needed an inward transformation

- Jesus needed strength. He was under tremendous pressure.
- Those who sought his life were closing in.
- He was misunderstood, even by his friends.
- He was lonely, for even his most devoted disciples rebuked him when he tried to inform them of his impending death.
- His human nature recoiled against the prospect of death.

Fellowship with heavenly visitors

- He sought the fellowship of God.
- He received the fellowship of heavenly visitors who understood his mission.
- Moses represented the law.
- He was the lawgiver and could see the fulfillment of the law in Jesus.
- Elijah, the greatest of the prophets, represented the prophets

Time to move

- Some even mistook Jesus as Elijah arisen from the dead.
- The two conversed with Jesus about his “departure” (Luke 9:31 NIV).
- The word “departure” in the New Testament has the same meaning as the word “exodus” in the Old Testament.
- *Exodus* means “going out.”

Going out from bondage

- The second book of the Bible is titled “Exodus,” meaning the children of Israel going out from the bondage of Egypt into the Promised Land.
- What a description of the death of the believer!
- Death to the Christian is going out from the bondage of this life into the freedom of that glorious land our Savior is preparing for us.

Shinning Jesus

- As Jesus prayed, he was transfigured.
- A radiance shone from within.
- A cloud descended, and the voice of God spoke his pleasure in his Son. It was a high and holy hour.
- The three disciples who accompanied Jesus were deeply impressed and moved.
- The spiritual ecstasy Peter experienced surpassed any other event in his life

Feeling heaven on earth

- The wonder and adoration of the moment were overwhelming.
- We can hear him saying, “Lord, it is good to be here. Let’s stay here.
- This is as near heaven as I can stand. Let us build three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.
- As far as John and James and I are concerned, we’ll be happy to sleep on the ground

Biggest mistake

- There were sleeping at a very important time
- Desire to remain there forever
- Mountaintop experience are to fit for the service
- A demon possessed boy waited at the foot of the mountain
- Disciples must come down and minister the need

Go down into the valley

- God rebuked Peter, and Jesus led the three disciples down into the valley where a crisis awaited them.
- The nine remaining disciples had sought to heal a tragically ill boy and had not been successful.
- The enemies of Jesus were exultant.

A boy is ill in valley

- It was a crisis for the kingdom as well as a crisis for a father and his sick son.
- Our impotence is an embarrassment to Jesus.
- Our lack of faith reflects on him.
- With a word he healed the boy and gave his disciples a lesson on faith.
- Two **IMPOTANT** lessons we learn from this experience of worship on the mount

Communion with God transfigures US.

- Worship changes the worshiper.
- The disciples could see the difference in Jesus' countenance.
- Moses' face shone as he came down from Mount Sinai after a time with God. (Exodus 34:29-35)

Stephen is shines too

- The face of the martyr Stephen shone as he looked up
- Stephen saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
- Neither of these men was aware that his face shone.
- If it is a genuine radiance, we are the last to notice it.

Prayer equips for the valley

- Peter wanted to prolong the great moment on the mount, but there was a need down in the valley, and Jesus and the disciples could supply that need.
- We cannot live all our life on the mountain.
- Neither must we live all our life in the valley

Climb the mountain

- We must climb the mountain and experience the worship of God.
- Then we must take the mountaintop back into the valley to those who have not been up the mountain.
- We must witness the glory of God on the mountaintop so we may minister to the misery of man in the valley.

There is suffering in the valley

- We cannot live Sunday all seven days of the week.
- We must worship God and renew our bodies and minds and spirits.
- Then God gives us six week days back in the valley to take the spirit and inspiration and witness of the Lord's Day to the people.

Receive your anointing

- We must meet God in the secret place.
- Meeting GOD IN CHURCH so that we may meet the non-believers and needy people in the marketplace.
- We take our needs to God so that we may be strengthened to meet the needs of other people

Don't remain stagnant

- Jesus said, “Thou shall worship the Lord thy God, and him only shall thou serve.”
- We have not really worshiped unless our worship equips and motivates us to serve.
- Those who sit and soak become stagnant : we are to go and give

Conclusion

- As a minister, I was privileged to attend a revival over one weekend with church members from all over the circuit IN ZIMBABWE.
- Friday night was a helpful service.
- Saturday the spirit rose higher and higher.
- On Saturday night, we were on the mountaintop. In a testimony service , one leader shared their dread of having to go back to their cold, secular homes the next day.

Fresh Testimony

- Finally, a new Christian began to speak.
- “You think you’ve had a great experience!
- Think about me. A few weeks ago, I didn’t know anything like this existed in this life or in a life to come.
- It is great! It is wonderful! And I can hardly wait for the revival to end tomorrow so I can get back home and share it with everybody I see.”

Caught the vision

- He had caught the vision.
- How we need the fire of God within us.
- How we long for the transfiguring experience of exalted worship that we may be equipped to minister to the multitudes who hurt in the valley.

Mountainside life

- But Jesus wants to lead us down the mountain and into the real world: a world divided by fear and hate;
- a world where the cult of the successful makes many feel worthless
- a world where many are passed over, and people of other races are oppressed
- a world where the gap between rich and poor grows ever greater;

Mountainside life

- a world where women and children are abused
- a world where illness can be chronic and disease debilitating
- a world where, tragically, parents bury children
- a world where many things are not right and cannot now be made right

The journey had begun

- Jesus leads us into this world, not to make us suffer, but to set us free.
- For "the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Corinthians 3:17).
- That freedom is found under the cross. If we lose our life, we will find it.
- That is the message of Lent which we hear again this Ash Wednesday as we begin our journey with Jesus toward our exodus in Jerusalem.

Shine Jesus shine

- God's glory becomes your own when you are chosen to be sons and daughters of God. And you are chosen.
- You have been chosen by God and baptized into the glory of the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- You are marked with the cross of Christ forever, a mark that cannot be destroyed.
- Your face will glow, too, as the love of Christ fills your being.
- This glow works its way into the world as you serve God and your neighbor, as you shine like stars in the world