

March 3, 2019

While They Were Praying

Luke 9:28-43a

For many, *dramatic visions and spiritual experiences are balanced by huge demands. The more open we are to God, and to the different dimensions of God's glory, the more we seem to be open to the pain of the world. We are right to be wary when we return from some great worship service, when we rise from a time of prayer in which God has seemed close and His love real and powerful. These things are never given for their own sake, but so that, as we are equipped by them, God can use us within His needy world* (N.T. Wright, 2004).

Unless we get out of the fortress of our worship space, and rebuke the unclean spirits of the powers that be, and shed light into the lives of the poor and troubles of our communities, we will never know what transfiguration means. Glory will be an unknown word and experience. If in the name and by the grace of God we cannot heal the boys and girls of our people, we will never know what shared glory looks like and we will never be “astounded at the greatness of God” (Cláudio Carvalhaes, 2016).

Luke is the only Gospel writer to share these times of prayer:

- Holy Spirit descends as Jesus is praying (3:21-22)
- Disciples chosen after an entire night of praying (6:12-16)
- Peter recognizes Jesus as Messiah—after prayer (9:18-20)

March Discipleship:

Are you connecting with people outside of Sunday worship, praying they will grow in their faith? Send a note of encouragement. Share with them what the Lord is teaching you!

God speaks to us, “*This is My Son... Listen to Him.*”

With whom will we listen to Jesus?

How will we respond to the needs and challenges of our lives?

Next week: *Luke 4, First Sunday of Lent*

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SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

Today: *Psalm 99*

Monday: *Matthew 17:1-8*

Tuesday: *Isaiah 42:1-9*

Wednesday: *Romans 12:1-2*

Thursday: *Romans 12:9-13*

Friday: *Romans 12:14-21*

Saturday: *Colossians 3:12-17*

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in
Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead
us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the
Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

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