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SERMON TITLE: "Recognizing God's Glory"
SCRIPTURE: Matthew 17:1-8
DATE: March 25, 2018
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READ MATTHEW 17:1-8

The glory of God had not been seen since the days of Moses at the Tent of Meeting, which was also called the tabernacle. This was the meeting place where God spoke to Moses face-to-face, but Moses could not really see God's face. As Moses finished the tabernacle, the glory of God entered in, but Moses wasn't allowed in because of sin and what God's presence does to sin. Moses even saw a glimpse of God's glory, but didn't see God's face.

Elijah, God's prophet, was able to hear God's voice in the mountains, but not see His face. First we will seek to understand God's glory. God's glory explains all the important ingredients that make God up, the things that make God, God.

Glory means:

Holiness: so pure that sin is eliminated in His presence

Power: awesome strength

Splendor: beautiful, rich appearance

Majesty: royal sovereign power

Presence: He owns where He dwells and He is known there.

God doesn't have to say anything; you know when God is around.

My question to you is: Can you recognize God's glory?
at Church
at School
at Home
in People
in Creation

Can you recognize God's glory around you?

God's glory is so strong it eliminates sin and makes its presence known. Moses asked God: *let me see what you're made of, what makes you God*. Sometimes we need to be careful what we ask for, because the very thing we think we need could be bad for us.

Moses asked to see God. God had to hide and protect Moses from His glory until He was far enough away that Moses could look upon God's back and catch a glimpse

without dying. God's glory was so strong it showed up on Moses's face. His face shone like the sun, too bright for others to gaze upon him. Does it seem strange that when people see God's glory on you, they often don't recognize it, but instead they want you to veil your face? They want to silence you or intimidate you because they don't understand you.

So, this glorious God wraps his Son in flesh, humbles His magnificent, powerful self in a man named Jesus and nobody recognized Him (Jn. 1:10-11). The Pharisees and crowds followed Jesus around until they were starving, asking Jesus, "Who are you? Who sent you? Prove yourself; show us a sign like our ancestors, then we'll believe you" (Jn. 6:26-36).

Some people want the miracle first, because they think the miracle will bring them closer to God, but God wanted the people to get closer first, then they could receive anything they asked of God. God is after the relationship, not your judgment. The Bible says, "Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness, and all these other things will be added to you" (Mt. 6:33-34).

Moses and Elijah had a good relationship with God, but it could have been more. They almost saw God's face.

Are you ok with an "almost relationship" with God, and receiving an "almost blessing?"

I almost got my blessing today

I almost prayed

I almost had a breakthrough

I almost received His Spirit

Isaiah said Jesus had no beauty or majesty, that is, he was not very attractive; there was nothing that would draw anyone near Him (Is. 53:2). He contained a great power, and yet people were too blind to see it; they were looking for a handsome, strong, great warrior to deliver them from the Romans.

Again I ask: can you recognize God's glory?

Now, the time comes for Jesus to reveal who He really is and the only ones invited to the party were Peter, James, and John. They were selected for a secluded, divine

appointment that encased a divine revealing in an elevated place.

The relationship between the three brought them to a climax in their relationship that would change their lives forever.

First, they reach the top,
Then, Jesus face begins to glow,
Now, Moses and Elijah show up and the party is on!

The glory of God is now revealed through His son Jesus. Finally, Peter, James, and John have seen the face of God. Jesus said, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (Jn. 14:9).

Jesus' face and clothes shine bright like the sun and life changes for these three. Then here comes God to confirm it all, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!" Yes, God said this to hush Peter from rambling, but also confirmed His glory in Jesus Christ. (Mt. 17:5)

You see, Peter, James, and John knew a secret. They knew the relationship is more important than the miracles. Before all this happened Jesus asked Peter, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Jesus said, "Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but the Father in heaven" (Mt. 16:15-17). Once, James and John asked to sit on Jesus' right and left. He asked them, "Can you drink from this cup?" Jesus said, "Indeed you will" (Mk. 10:37-40).

It all started with follow me. They bore the cross of following Christ and choosing to believe. As a result, they received an eternal reward from heaven.

Don't be happy with an "almost blessing." Receive your reward from heaven. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Follow him and he will reveal God's face and you will see God's glory.

AMEN